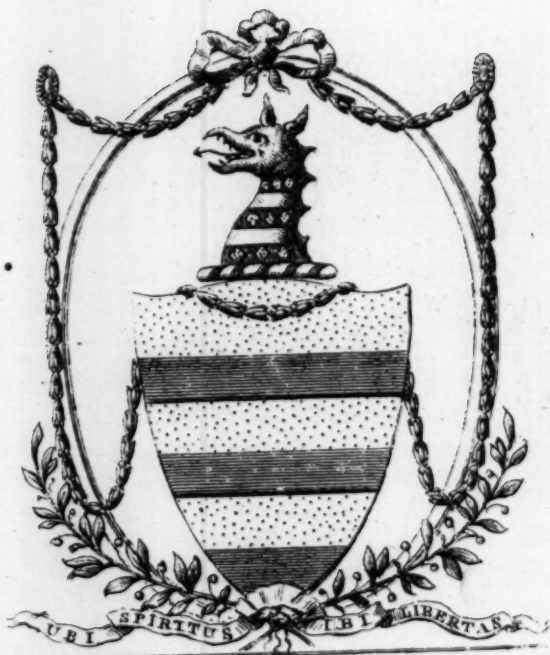
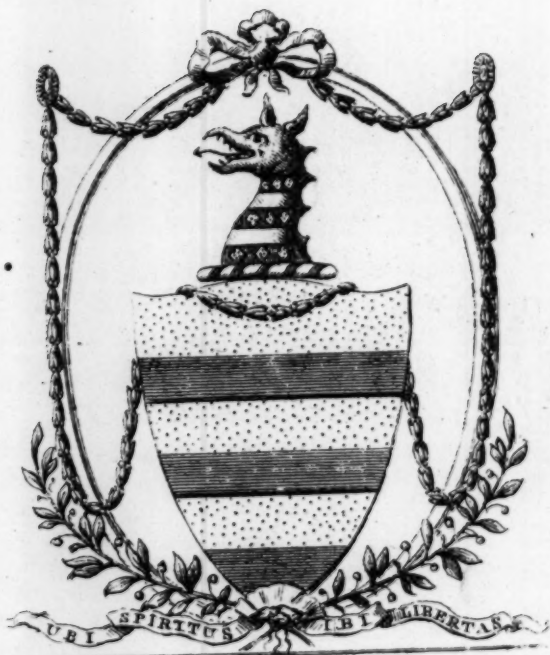


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*W<sup>m</sup> Constable Esq.*  
F.R.S. & F.A.S.

22-10-0



*W<sup>m</sup> Constable Esq.*  
F.R.S. & F.A.S.





CLEMENTINA

OR THE

HISTORY

OF

ITALIAN LADY

WHO MADE

HER ESCAPE FROM A MONASTERY

AND

LOVE OF A SCOT'S NOBLEMAN

LONDON

Printed by W. Smith, 10, Old Bailey, London

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C L E M E N T I N A ;

OR, THE

*12650a125*  
H I S T O R Y

O F A N

I T A L I A N L A D Y ,

W H O M A D E

H E R E S C A P E F R O M A M O N A S T E R Y ,

F O R T H E

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**T**HIS Work made its first Appearance in the Year 1728, under the Title of “ The Agreeable Caledonian,” and having been several Years out of Print, its Author, the late Mrs. Eliza Haywood, was induced to prepare it again for the Press; and accordingly made some few Alterations for that Purpose; but her Death happening soon after, a Stop was put to the Publication intended. From that revised Copy the present Edition is printed.

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OR, THE  
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OF  
Mr. MORTON and Miss BAMSTED.

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C L E M E N T I N A :

O R, T H E

H I S T O R Y

O F A N

I T A L I A N L A D Y.

**O**F all the noble families in Rome, there was none that could boast of having furnished the council with greater statesmen, nor the army with more brave commanders, than that of Morella: nor did the records make it appear that any of that name had ever forfeited their honour in the field, or their fidelity in the cabinet. The extraordinary services done by some of them were so well rewarded, that Lorenzo, marquis of Morella, the last male heir

B

of



2 CLEMENTINA: *or, the*

of that house, found himself master of immense riches. He was married to a lady of great beauty and birth, with whom he lived in a felicity, which was only imbibited by the grief of having no issue. But at last, when both were arrived at a pretty advanced age, and began to be past hope of heirs, the lady, contrary to all expectation, proved with child, and in due time was delivered of a daughter; to whom the pope being godfather, she was called after him, Clementina.

It would be needless to repeat the care that was taken of her education; the reader will easily believe, that nothing was wanting to embellish the mind of a young girl, born to such vast possessions: therefore, I shall only say, that she improved so well in all they attempted to teach her, that she became the most accomplished of her sex. As to her beauty, though it was not of that dazzling sort which immediately astonishes the gazer's eyes, yet it was such as rendered it impossible to see often without being charmed.

There

There was an inexpressible sweetness in the whole turn of her features, which stole insensibly into the heart, and gained a conquest without seeming to attempt it. In fine, she had those attractions, which, without being the sole heiress of the marquis of Morella, might have made her the object of a thousand hopes: but that powerful excitement, being added to the others, incredible were the number of her adorers. Happy did they think themselves whose birth, estate, and personal good qualities, flattered them with an imagination that the marquis would grant them his permission to pay their devoirs at the shrine of his lovely daughter. And scarce any there were, who had the least pretension to hope being received, that did not attempt it.

The careful father was not, however, very hasty to dispose of her. Not the smallest of her perfections were concealed from him; and it is possible also that he looked on them with magnifying eyes. Though many there were who solicited his consent, of equal birth and fortune,

4 CLEMENTINA: *or, the*

yet his ambition made him still aim at something greater: and as she was very young, resolved to wait in expectation of some offer which might raise her to the most elevated station, none being above what he imagined she deserved and would become. It seemed, indeed, as if, in refusing so many advantageous proposals made to her, he had been endowed with the spirit of prophecy. For scarce was she arrived at her sixteenth year, when a certain cardinal offered to throw aside his cap and purple in exchange for her love; so deeply was he enamoured, that he lived not but in the house of the marquis. And though he endeavoured as much as possible to conceal his passion from the world, veiling his admiration of the daughter, under the pretence of friendship for the father, yet so little was he able to command his glances, when in the presence of the charmer, or his tongue from speaking of her in absence, that few there were who knew him, without being also acquainted with his inclinations. But as there are not many, even of those who profess themselves  
the

*History of an Italian Lady.* 5

the most absolutely devoted to love, who will in reality quit the pursuit of ambition for it; it was more generally believed, that the cardinal intended no more than a gratification of his desires with the spoil of this young beauty's chastity, than that he would forego his dignities, and renounce all the honours of the ecclesiastic robe to become her husband. This opinion gained the more ground, because he was scarce ever from the house of the marquis, and had all imaginable privileges there; yet neither himself nor the old gentleman uttered the least syllable, even to their greatest intimates, that there was any design of marriage on foot: nay, concealed as much as possible, that the cardinal had any amorous inclinations for Clementina: all was disguised under the pretence of friendship for the marquis; and, whenever a hint was given of the truth, all imaginable care was taken suppress it.

The reason of this was, that our young charmer, finding nothing either in the person of the cardinal, or the honour she might receive in being his, which could

make any impression in his favour on her heart, expressed the utmost aversion to his addresses, was scarce brought to treat him with that civility his love and rank required; and, whenever his absence gave her an opportunity, by tears and prayers endeavoured to divert her father from the resolution he had taken of giving her to him. And that tender parent, unwilling to compel her inclinations, still kept the enamoured cardinal in expectation of kinder treatment; while he, divided between hope and fear, encouraged by the former, left no means untried to forward his suit; and deterred by the latter, made no confidants of his passion, lest the ill success of it should subject him to ridicule. By this means the characters both of the marquis and his daughter were very much reflected on, and the cardinal suspected to be much happier than in reality he was: Clementina was looked on to have yielded her honour and virtue a prey to the dishonourable wishes of that great man, and her father to have consented to it, to gratify an avaricious view. Sincerity is a virtue so rare to be found, and so little encouraged when it is,

is, that few people are willing to reveal their sentiments, when they know they will be unpleasing; or whatever real service the discovering them would be to the persons concerned in them. Though nothing was more the general whisper than the supposed intrigue between the cardinal and Clementina; yet none there were who would take the liberty of uttering their suggestions to either of them: till signor Bellario, a passionate devotee to the charms of Clementina, and who had formerly flattered himself with having the first place in her esteem, incensed beyond measure at some late treatment he had received from her; she having, in obedience to her father's commands, refused to admit his visits; could no longer refrain complaining of the severity of his fate, and reproaching the change of her behaviour, in a letter which contained these lines:

To the fair fallen angel of her sex, the  
former lovely, but undone Clementina.

“ **H**OW difficult is it to believe any  
“ thing to the prejudice of the per-  
“ son



“ son we love! How long did my fond  
“ heart struggle ere it would yield to  
“ think you less than divine? With  
“ humble resignation bore your cruel  
“ scorn, accusing my own demerit  
“ only for the severity of my fate: he  
“ must be more than man; cried I,  
“ who deserves Clementina. If I had  
“ any hopes, they were inspired but by  
“ my opinion of your gratitude, which  
“ sometimes flattered me with a belief  
“ you would reward at last a passion as  
“ truly honourable as it was violent.  
“ But how, alas! was I deceived? How  
“ different were the addresses of my pure  
“ and virtuous flame, from those which  
“ have the power to gain you! Good  
“ Heaven! that it should be given to  
“ empty titles, and a founding name to  
“ gild the blackest crimes, and triumph  
“ over honest love! In what, except his  
“ dignity, does this happy cardinal me-  
“ rit more than the rejected Bellario?  
“ And, oh! Clementina! too unjust to  
“ yourself, as well as cruel to me, can  
“ you think the magnificence of his pur-  
“ ple robe a sufficient sanction for his  
“ vices? Will it screen you from the  
“ dif-



*History of an Italian Lady.* 9

“ dishonour your fatal yielding draws  
“ upon you? Can you hope to answer  
“ the breach of virtue and of modesty,  
“ because you are guilty of it with a  
“ member of the sacred conclave? Has  
“ age so far debilitated the reason with  
“ the strength of the marquis of Mo-  
“ rella, that he can behold, unmoved,  
“ the ruin of his only child; and  
“ consent that name, which for so  
“ many ages has been worn with ho-  
“ nour, should at last be stained with  
“ lust, and all the glory of his famed  
“ progenitors lost in one shameful act?  
“ Amazement! Could this proceeding  
“ be reconciled to reason or to nature,  
“ my still fond doating heart would find  
“ out an excuse: but there is none. No-  
“ thing that can be said in vindication  
“ of either him or you. Were the gran-  
“ deur of your noble house demeaned  
“ by poverty, the interest and rich pre-  
“ sents of the lord cardinal might be  
“ some mitigation of the fault. Were  
“ he of those years which can in one of  
“ yours excite the tender passion, he  
“ must not know the force of it,  
“ who would refuse his pity for what-  
B 5 “ ever

10 CLEMENTINA: *or, the*

“ ever it might influence you to com-  
“ mit: but neither of these arguments  
“ plead in your favour, to stop the cen-  
“ sure of the judging world. With  
“ what agonies of soul do I hear Cle-  
“ mentina, the once adored Clementina,  
“ subjected to the scurril mirth of every  
“ loose companion, the scorn of the  
“ fair, who before repined at her supe-  
“ rior charms, and pitied but by those  
“ who admired them as I have done?  
“ Long have I espoused your cause,  
“ long quarrelled with my reason, and  
“ doubted my very senses, when wit-  
“ nesses of your dishonour. But, oh!  
“ I am at last convinced! I find you  
“ are undone, and am doubly wretched  
“ in the sad discovery; since my soul  
“ and all its faculties are still too much  
“ yours not to regret your ruin infinitely  
“ more than any thing which can befall the

“ Despairing BELLARIO.”

He sent this letter by a servant of his own, with a strict charge to deliver it into the hands of Clementina. But the marquis, who happened to be in the hall,

hall, and knew to whom he belonged, not being pleased his daughter should continue any correspondence with his master, by threats compelled him to resign the letter. Never was any rage or amazement superior to his, when he had examined the contents: conscious of no ill, he had not imagined himself suspected of any; nor could he yet believe these aspersions proceeded from any other source than the malice of a slighted lover. Now did he wish there were a possibility to renew his former youth and vigour, though it were but for one moment, that he might make use of it in vengeance on the boldness of Bellario. As he was in the height of his indignation, two of his most intimate friends came to visit him. His countenance denoting the disorders of his mind, they demanded if any thing had happened extraordinary, to give him cause of disquiet. On which he made no scruple of communicating the contents of the letter; exclaiming at the same time against the insolence and malice of Bellario's aspersion, and hinting how greatly he should think himself obliged to any

person who should call that young cavalier to account for the affront. But his mouth was soon stopped; instead of acquiescing with what he said, both the persons to whom he directed his discourse, told him, that they were not in the least surprized to find that a despairing and discarded lover should, in the height of his resentment, disclose his belief of what was not only his, but the general opinion of as many as knew of the cardinal's visits; and with all the freedom of a disinterested friendship, proceeded to inform him of the stain which his admiration had thrown on the character of Clementina; concealing nothing of the aspersions report had cast on her, and also on himself, for his too great indulgence in encouraging an intimacy which none believed had an honourable aim.

The marquis, knowing his own and daughter's innocence, having little imagined any such scandal had been raised, could scarce contain himself at hearing it. He vented a thousand curses on the first inventor of so detestable a falsehood, and no longer concealed any part of what  
had

had passed between him and the cardinal. He assured his friends, that he had never consented his daughter should receive his addresses, had he not offered to lay aside his purple, and forego all the honours of the cap; the moment she yielded to be his wife; which now, said he, she shall immediately do. I have thus long waited her slow result, and endeavoured only by mild arguments to convince her of the honour and advantage of such a match; but I will exert the father, and compel her to vindicate the reputation of us all. Within three days shall their marriage be celebrated: I wish it, and the cardinal languishes for it, and she shall no longer find excuses for delay.

His friends omitted nothing which might engage him to persevere in this resolution. And they being departed, he went to the chamber of Clementina, and communicated to her not only the letter which Bellario had sent to her, but also all that he had been told concerning the unhappy character they both laboured under on the cardinal's account: and

con-

concluded his discourse with a positive command, that she should prepare herself with all possible expedition for the celebration of their nuptials, which alone could vindicate his and her own honour from the malicious censures of the world. The tears she let fall before she spoke, convinced him that there was nothing in the world so dreadful to her as this marriage; but he was determined; and therefore, to avoid the sight of a grief he could not remedy, was about to leave the room, without giving her time for entreaties.

But she, perceiving his intent, and in his settled brow reading her doom, threw herself on her knees between him and the door, and embracing his legs, by that action prevented him from leaving her, and demonstrated an affliction which was too great for words. "Why," resumed he in an angry tone, though his heart bled with inward compassion, "why, thou perverse one, dost thou treat me thus? Is this obstinate refusal what alone can make thee happy; a fit return for all my cares and fatherly indulgence? But think not," pursued he, "that I am so weak as to be moved  
" by



“ by thy foolish sorrow ; or that thy tears  
“ can counter-balance honour, interest,  
“ and those solemn promises I have made  
“ to the lord cardinal.” “ Oh, Sir !”  
answered she (now, though not before,  
the excessive pressure on her spirits per-  
mitting her to discharge some part of it  
in words), “ I look on death as a less evil  
“ than disobedience to your commands,  
“ and willingly would resign my breath,  
“ if that would satisfy those cruel pleas  
“ to which you listen. Oh ! what is in-  
“ terest, when compared to peace of  
“ mind ? What is honour and reputation,  
“ when, to preserve them, we must sa-  
“ crifice all the quiet of our lives ? I  
“ cannot love the cardinal : I cannot be  
“ his without offending heaven, and pro-  
“ phaning those holy rites which claim  
“ the heart as well as hand. Oh ! how  
“ can I give the one, when utter detesta-  
“ tion fills the other ? It is not barely  
“ want of liking, it is hatred, it is loath-  
“ ing, it is abhorrence, fixed and rooted  
“ in my soul, never to be removed by  
“ time, nor services.” “ Already then,”  
said the marquis, fiercely interrupting  
her, “ hast thou bestowed those affections  
“ which



“ which his merits but vainly endeavour  
“ to inspire, and, doubtless, on some  
“ wretch unworthy of thy thoughts, or  
“ my acceptance? But mark me well,”  
continued he, more angry; “ the lord  
“ cardinal or a cloister is thy doom.”  
“ The latter,” replied she, “ I can sub-  
“ mit to bear; the other never. Yet  
“ do not think the merits of any other  
“ man have obscured in my eyes those  
“ of the cardinal; for by all my hope  
“ of your forgiveness, the first and dear-  
“ est with I have on earth, I am as free  
“ as air from any tincture of that passion  
“ which the world calls love; nor have I  
“ yet ever seen the man could charm me,  
“ tho’ many a one less my aversion than  
“ him you recommend, and in whose af-  
“ fections I confess myself much ho-  
“ noured, though made wretched.” The  
marquis was about to make some reply  
to these words, when he was told the  
cardinal was come to visit him; on  
which he broke from his daughter, and  
only bidding her, on pain of his eternal  
curse, to receive him as her future hus-  
band, flung out of the room with an air  
which made her know, that all farther  
entre-

entreaties would be fruitless to move him from his purpose.

Never did a heart more abandon itself to despair than that of this unhappy lady. In the anguish of her soul she tore not only her hair and garments, but her very face. And her woman, who alone was witness of her disorders, fearing she would commit some violence against her own life, endeavoured all she could to pacify her, but in vain; the stormy passions rolling in her mind, grew stronger by opposition: and the girl, extremely grieved to see the sad condition she was in, advised her, if she could think of any other expedient than that unsuccessful one of attempting to alter her father's resolution, to make trial of it; and having been formerly very frequently solicited by Bellario to speak in his behalf, thought there could not be a more proper time than this. And, after insinuating how constant a lover he had been, and, withal, how accomplished and fine a gentleman; "Had it been  
"in his behalf," added she, "that the  
"marquis had appeared so resolute to  
"oblige

“oblige you to become a wife, to have  
“been disobedient, you had been guilty  
“of a crime without excuse; and if you  
“should at last reward the firm affection  
“he has borne you, I cannot think your  
“conduct could be justly blamed.” “I  
“have used Bellario ill”, replied Cle-  
mentina, “and he would not now, per-  
“haps, think it worth his while to at-  
“tempt any thing to save me from this  
“encroaching cardinal.” “Oh, fear  
“not that,” resumed the other, “the  
“hope of gaining you, would, I am cer-  
“tain, enable him to undertake the  
“greatest enterprizes, dare the utmost  
“dangers, and contrive the most fur-  
“prizing stratagems, much more to for-  
“get such little flights as all who are lo-  
“vers must expect to bear, and but en-  
“dear affection at the last.” “Affec-  
“tion! didst thou say?” interrupted her  
mistress. “Alas! I know not what it  
“means, unless that sort which is natu-  
“ral among those near to us by blood  
“or friendship. Bellario neither is, nor  
“will be, ever regarded by me with any  
“more than that complaisance which is  
“due to his quality. As for his love,  
“it

“ it always gave me rather pain than  
“ pleasure. What can be more tiresome,  
“ than an eternal talk of what one is not  
“ capable of apprehending? For my  
“ part, it only moves my mirth, when  
“ I see people fold their arms, cast down  
“ their eyes, and groan as if seized  
“ with some mortal disease, and all for  
“ no more than mere whim, or fancied  
“ ill, which I dare swear has no exist-  
“ ence but in the poet’s, or the madman’s  
“ brain.” “ Good god !” cried her wo-  
man, “ are you then resolved never to  
“ marry ?” “ I know not that,” said  
Clementina ; “ but I think I will not, if  
“ so great a misfortune can any way be  
“ avoided.” “ Yet still,” resumed she,  
“ you would prefer Bellario to the cardinal,  
“ if you were allowed to chuse ?” “ Most  
“ certainly,” answered the lady, “ if I  
“ were to exchange my liberty for the  
“ marriage bonds, I should think it a less  
“ misfortune to be joined with a part-  
“ ner of suitable years and humour. The  
“ austere behaviour and age of the car-  
“ dinal may awe, but never charm me.  
“ I have within me something averse to  
“ all mankind in general, but in parti-  
“ cular

“cular to him; and sooner will I consent to wed my grave.” “Yet there is no avoiding it,” said the maid, “but making a speedy choice of some other; and who so fit as the agreeable, the adoring, the constant Bellario?” “I cannot think of it,” resumed she. “but if without that bribe he would attempt somewhat for my deliverance from this approaching misfortune, I would endeavour to love him. Though,” cried she again, after a little pause, “I will promise nothing.”

Some farther conversation, to the same effect, having past between them, Clementina sat down at her escrutore, and wrote in this manner:

To the cruel and unjust BELLARIO.

“I Need not tell you, that your letter  
 “fell into my father’s hands: I doubt  
 “not but the person who brought it has  
 “informed you to whom he was compelled to resign it. But as I believe you  
 “are ignorant of the misfortune your  
 “writing

“ writing has occasioned me, cannot for-  
“ bear letting you know it. So far am  
“ I from being guilty of the crime with  
“ which I am accused, that in refusing  
“ the lord cardinal’s love in the most  
“ honourable way, I have suffered more  
“ from my father’s indignation than can  
“ be well expressed. Unkind! ungenerous  
“ Bellario! Can you pretend to  
“ love Clementina, and yet think so  
“ meanly of her? Good God! a prostitute!  
“ How ought I to hate the man  
“ that dares to call me so? How tenderly  
“ revere and prize the noble-minded lover,  
“ who, to purchase me, gladly resigns  
“ dignities which princes think it  
“ a glory to obtain? Yet, all ungrateful!  
“ thankless as I am, my stubborn heart  
“ denies admittance to all sentiments  
“ but those of aversion for his virtuous  
“ flame. Not all his languishments, his  
“ vows, the obedience due to my father’s  
“ will, the dangers which must attend his  
“ displeasure, nor the admonitions of my  
“ own glory and reputation, can prevail  
“ on me to become his wife, and give the  
“ lye to the malicious censures of the  
“ base judging world.  
“ The



“ The grave is less terrible to me than  
“ such a bridal; yet must I soon be forced  
“ to yield my unwilling hand! tears  
“ and reluctance no longer are of service  
“ to obtain delay. This, Bellario, has  
“ your cruel reproaches brought upon  
“ me. Fatal effect of rash jealousy!  
“ The mischief I have so long found ex-  
“ cuses to avoid, your unlucky behavi-  
“ our has hastened. Perhaps this very  
“ day I shall be dragged to the altar,  
“ compelled, for the vindication of that  
“ honour you have so unjustly aspersed,  
“ to sacrifice my soul’s eternal peace.  
“ Oh, how severely have you revenged  
“ those little flights I was obliged to  
“ treat you with! How have you your-  
“ self contributed to take from me all  
“ possibility of ever being yours! Oh,  
“ think! contrive! if yet I seem wor-  
“ thy of your love, or of your cares,  
“ some stratagem to break off, or delay  
“ this hated marriage. Let us exchange  
“ forgiveness with each other: pardon  
“ the involuntary rudeness of my for-  
“ bidding visits, and I no more will re-  
“ member your readiness in believing  
“ me guilty of a crime I blush to think  
“ on.



“ on. Assure yourself that all I know  
“ of love, is in your favour. Time,  
“ and your future services, may improve  
“ the regard I now have for you, into  
“ that passion you once so strenuously  
“ endeavoured to inspire. In the mean  
“ while, save me from the impending  
“ danger, and hope every thing from  
“ the gratitude of

“ The obliged

“ CLEMENTINA DI MORELLA.”

This, having sealed, she thought no other person proper to entrust with, but her who had persuaded her to write it; and accordingly dispatched her on that errand. But she had no sooner left the room, than the marquis, followed by the enamoured cardinal, entered. Clementina, though somewhat less disordered than she had been, could not receive that unwelcome lover but with eyes which testified the extreme regret she had to entertain him; which the marquis presently

sently perceiving; " Since not all the  
" reluctance," said he, with a look which  
demonstrated he was still in the same  
mind with which he had left her, " which  
" your foolish bashfulness, or affecta-  
" tion of it, has made lord cardinal with-  
" draw his affection, I command you  
" now to receive it as your highest hap-  
" piness as well as honour. Speak,"  
continued he, finding she was silent,  
" are you determined on obedience?"  
" I have already said so much," answer-  
ed she with a trembling voice, " that  
" there is nothing more to add. You  
" know, Sir, I am yours, and must be  
" disposed of as you please." " I do,"  
resumed he; " but would have her who  
" boasts herself my child, be so much  
" sensible of her duty, as to know no  
" true felicity can attend the breach of  
" it; and also of my indulgence, to  
" confess I would not command what  
" was not her interest to obey." She  
made no reply to these words, either be-  
cause the inward emotions of her soul  
left her not the power, or because she  
could find nothing to say which would  
not more inflame the displeasure of her  
father.

father. But he having left the room, to give the lord cardinal an opportunity of entertaining her with his passion, she threw herself on a couch which happened to stand near her; and, without any regard to that illustrious lover, began to give vent to the oppression of her heart, in terms which made his ready to burst. "Would to God," cried she, "I could " this moment be transformed into some- " thing which might rather terrify than " excite desire. Beauty, to all others of " my sex a blessing, is to me a curse; " because it sacrifices me to loathed embraces, and the man I hate. Cruel " father! most inhuman, whilst thou " boastest of thy indulgence! No sooner " am I arrived at years to taste the joys " of life, and know my own happiness, " but thou compellest me to renounce it, " and bury all my hopes, at once, in " in these detested nuptials." In this manner did she run on for a considerable time, the cardinal, by his surprize and grief, being rendered incapable of interrupting her. But recovering himself at last, he drew nearer to her, and with a voice which expressed the utmost despair,

C

spair, "Am I so hateful to you then,  
"madam?" cried he. "Has all my  
"constant love and services, and the  
"preference I give to be your slave, to  
"the greatest dignities this world can  
"bestow, deserved your detestation?"  
"Love is not in our power," answered  
she fiercely; "nor can I think myself ob-  
"liged for the effects of a passion which  
"is involuntary. If you wish me to be  
"yours, it is to gratify yourself alone:  
"for had you the least regard for me as  
"a mistress, or compassion for me as a  
"wretch, you would not make use of my  
"father's power to undo me." "Unjust  
"and barbarous Clementina!" resumed  
he; "can you reproach me with the want  
"of that respect, the excess of which has  
"made me so long linger in the pangs of  
"uncertainty? Have I not with the most  
"humble submission waited my doom,  
"endured your cruel scorn without com-  
"plaining, still hoping, by assiduity  
"and constancy, to move you to a more  
"just sense of what was owing to a  
"flame like mine? And even now, im-  
"patient, distracted as I am to call you  
"mine, is it to my importunities, or  
"your

“ your father’s desires, you must so speedily be made so? Still would I yield to languish in suspense, still attend, alas! your slow result; but it is the marquis who thinks himself enough convinced how much I merit to be his son, and will have me give all future proofs of my affection in the name of husband. Should I not take the advantage he has offered, justly might you and he suspect the warmth of my desires.” “ Well does your sex,” said she, “ know how to dress the worst of meanings, in the best of shapes. A thousand thousand times you have heard me declare, I never could be brought to love you with that sort of tenderness which alone can render the marriage yoke supportable; that I could never think, that day I might be compelled to become your wife, without a shock which was very near depriving me of my senses. Yet you, out of abundant love, and disinterested affection, will make me so, though sure that tears and sighs, wild grief, and every testimony of despair,

“ will be the only rapture of the bridal  
“ bed.”

She spoke these words with an air of contempt, which let him know more fully than he had ever done before, that he was indeed the object of her utmost detestation; and, in spite of the passion he had for her, roused a pride which would not permit him to be treated in this manner, without shewing some resentment. “ Well Madam,” answered he, “ if in rendering myself in a condition to become your husband, I do not give ample proofs that my affection is disinterested, I despair of ever convincing you that it is so. I will therefore leave you to reflect on what I have done, and what I have suffered; and judge yourself, all partial as you are, if I deserve your hate.” He concluded these words with a deep sigh; and, after making a low reverence, went out of the room.

Clementina, having now a little leisure for meditation, could not indeed forbear accusing herself of the utmost ingratitude: but as she was of a disposition  
which



which made her impatient of controul, and violently addicted to follow her own will, to whatsoever it should incline her, she felt not much remorse at being unable to reward his passion; and still resolutely bent never to marry him, if by any means she could avoid it, was rather pleased than the contrary, that, in the ungovernable agitations of her mind, she had discovered her hate in a more plain manner than before she had ever dared to do. She sometimes flattered herself with the hope, that her declared aversion would abate the fervour of his love, or at least make him ashamed to press the gratification of it; and concluded within herself, that neither persuasions nor threatenings should oblige her to recall what she had said, or extort one word that should look like a consenting. But she had not any long time to reflect on these things: her confident returned, and gave a sudden turn to her thoughts, by presenting her with a letter from Bellario, in answer to that which she had been the bearer of: the contents whereof were as follow:

To the ever lovely and most adorable

CLEMENTINA.

“ **T**O be assured from your divine  
“ words (more sacred to me than  
“ all the oracles of antiquity were to  
“ their worshippers) that you are not  
“ only innocent of the crime with which  
“ you have been charged, but that also  
“ the man with whom you are suspected  
“ of the most faulty liberties, is so much  
“ the object of your aversion, that you  
“ would chuse almost rather to die, than  
“ accept of his addresses in the most honourable way, is such a blessing, that  
“ nothing, but the knowledge you had  
“ done so for Bellario, could surpass.  
“ Oh! were I allowed to hope I should  
“ not in the same circumstances meet  
“ with the same return, how infinite  
“ would be my transport! But, charming insensible! you yet seem born  
“ only to create love, not feel the effects  
“ of it yourself: you command me,  
“ indeed, to invent some stratagem  
“ which may deprive the lord cardinal  
“ of



“ of his expected felicity : but, alas !  
“ you promise not you will bestow on  
“ me what you refuse to him. I may,  
“ perhaps, still languish in suspense,  
“ and at last see your heaven of love  
“ showered on some happier man, who,  
“ in spite of all I have done or suffered,  
“ shall triumph over my pains, and reap  
“ the envied purchase of my sufferings.  
“ But why, unhappy that I am ! why  
“ do I seem to hesitate ? Why raise scrup-  
“ les foreign to the present situation  
“ of both our affairs ? You fear to be  
“ constrained to unwished nuptials ; and  
“ it is my duty, and my interest too,  
“ to deliver you from so great an evil  
“ to yourself, and irreparable misfor-  
“ tune to me ; but how, oh ! how shall I  
“ find out the means ? I know of none  
“ but daring this haughty happy rival  
“ to the field, and compelling him to  
“ resign his pretensions or his life. At  
“ present his robes excuse him from an-  
“ swering the demand ; but they thrown  
“ off, what qualifies him for a husband,  
“ obliges him also to defend the justice  
“ of his plea. And be assured that he  
“ no sooner shall proclaim his renuncia-

“ tion of the sacred privilege, than I  
“ shall call him to exact account for all  
“ the pangs he has occasioned

“ The despairing,

“ But ever most faithful,

“ And zealously devoted,

“ And adoring,

“ BELLARIO.”

She had scarce time to examine the contents of this letter, and put it into her pocket, before her father came into the room, with a countenance so inflamed with wrath, that it was easy for her to guess the cardinal had complained to him of her late treatment.

It is certain, that nothing could be more enraged than the marquis. He had met the cardinal as he was coming from her chamber, and, without giving himself time to observe the chagrin which  
was.

was visible enough in his face, said, "I  
" hope, my lord, Clementina is at last  
" convinced of what is owing from her  
" to your love and my commands?"  
" No, my lord," replied he: " But I  
" am so, that all farther importunities  
" will be vain; and must have so  
" much regard to my own character,  
" and the affection I have vowed shall  
" be eternal to your daughter, as not to  
" prosecute an endeavour she declares  
" will never have any other effect than  
" to be the trouble of her repose. I  
" will therefore no more persecute her  
" with my unwelcome addresses, nor,  
" till she is pleased to think more justly  
" of my love, presume to intrude on  
" her other more agreeable meditations."  
Surprized to be told she had dared so far  
to disobey his commands, so much en-  
gross'd the soul of the marquis, that it  
prevented him from making an immediate  
answer. And the other, ready to burst  
with inward spight and grief, desired  
not to continue the conversation; but  
flung out of the house, that he might,  
with the more convenience, give a loose

to the disorders with which he was overwhelmed.

But those first emotions which rose in the mind of the marquis, in a short time, giving way to those of indignation, he ran to the apartment of his daughter, and reproached her for the disappointment of his hopes, in terms which not all the resolution she had shewn, not all the natural obstinacy of her temper, nor the knowledge she had of his perfect indulgence to her, could enable her to support without a shock, which laid her fainting at his feet. When recovered, she had recourse to tears and prayers, to mitigate his rage; but all she could say was ineffectual. He swore never to bestow on her his blessing, nor any mark of former paternal love, till she should confess the folly of her conduct, and recall the cardinal. To the first of these articles she willingly consented: she acknowledged the advantage of such a match, avowed the utmost sensibility of the cardinal's disinterested affection, and owned herself ungrateful and unjust; but then withal protested it was not in her power

power to avoid being so; and still persevered in assuring him, that death itself would be a less evil to her, than such a marriage. Scarce could he refrain from more than threatenings, so greatly was he incensed: but, after having uttered the most bitter curses on her disobedience, he left her on the floor half-drowned in tears, and terrified beyond expression with the apprehensions of what might be the effects of his displeasure.

Those violent agitations, however, by degrees abating, through the persuasions of her woman, and the remembrance how on many occasions she had experienced the tenderness of her father to her; she grew pretty well satisfied that she had acted in the manner she had done. She had by this means got rid of the cardinal's solicitations, and she doubted not but that she should in a short time be reconciled to her father. She was also pleased that she owed her deliverance to herself, and not to any endeavours of Bellario, which would have laid her under an obligation

tion to him, that she had neither the power nor inclination to requite.

In this situation of mind let us leave her for a time, and return to the marquis, than whom scarce ever any suffered more from his natural impatience of disappointments, and the want of duty in a child that, from her birth, had been so dear to him. It must indeed be confessed, that the scandal which lay on him concerning the cardinal, and which could no way be removed but by his marriage with Clementina, was sufficient to have disturbed a mind less avaricious than was his. He knew not what to do in this perplexity: not all the tears and grief of his beloved daughter would have been able to have moved him from his purpose; he would himself have dragged her to the altar, and compelled her to have assisted in the ceremony, but she had now found the way to oblige the cardinal to decline, and over him he had no power, neither would he submit to entreat him to renew his pretensions. This breaking off between them, after  
such



such an intimacy, he thought would more confirm what had been said, and be looked on rather as the effect of the cardinal's satiety, than the obstinate refusal of Clementina. He remained for some days in the utmost inquietudes, which rather increased than diminished, by hearing nothing from that once passionate lover; and Clementina's still persisting in her refusing to make any efforts to recall him. As a punishment for the latter, he took a resolution to send her to a monastery, than which he thought nothing would be more terrible to a young lady of her vivacity and gaiety. But before he did so, he came into her chamber, and, obliging her to deliver him the key of her cabinet, it still running in his head that she had not conceived so violent an aversion to the cardinal, but for the sake of a more young and agreeable object; he there found the last letter she had received from Bellario. This gave him a mixture of pain and pleasure; for, while it added to his indignation, that she had continued a correspondence with that gentleman, after his express commands to the

the contrary, and the reflections had been cast upon her by him ; yet was he extremely glad of this testimony from his own hand, that he no longer believed her guilty of deserving them; and that the cardinal's addressee were on the most honourable terms. He kept the letter, therefore, and, having shewed it to as many as he was acquainted with, ordered copies of it to be dispersed throughout the whole city, not in the least regarding in what manner either the cardinal or Bellario might resent such a proceeding.

The cloister in which Clementina was for some time destined to bewail her disobedience, was that of the Augustines at Viterbo, the lady abbess of which was accounted to have a more than ordinary care of those committed to her charge. And though the freedom of that order admitted many liberties denied to those of the Pourclairs, Franciscans, and several others; yet was she so extremely cautious that no men, of what rank or quality soever, were permitted to hold any conversation

tion with the nuns, except they could prove themselves nearly related to them, or brought some commission from their parents, which might authorize their visits. How great a confinement this was for a young lady, naturally fond of being seen and admired, let the belles who fill the circle judge. Clementina was for some time inconsolable; to change her downy bed for a coarse hempen mattress; to forsake her rest, and rise at midnight when the melancholy bell calls the lazy devotees to devotion; to change gay serenades, and the melting notes of amorous sonnets, for solemn anthems, and the softening lute for the grave organ; instead of a train of admiring youths crowding wherever she passed, no company but those of her own sex, who by their vow were bound to forbear all speech of man and love: this I say was so cruel a reverse, that, at her first submitting to the monastic laws, she looked on herself as buried. The austere countenances of those she was among, forbid her to hope there was any of them whom she could have any conversation with in a  
man-

manner befitting her age and humour. Though many there were who exceeded not herself in years, yet had custom and the severity of those rules to which they were obliged to live, imprinted an air of gravity in their faces, which seemed to forbid all freedoms to be taken with them. An accident, however, happening to convince Clementina that they were not all such as they appeared, at once surprized and gave her an infinite satisfaction.

- There was in this monastery, as in most others, several ladies, who, being lately entered, were on their probation. Among that number was signiora Miramene de los Veronvill, daughter to the count of that name. She was young, beautiful, and witty to excess; and tho' the place and company she was in obliged her to keep that latter talent concealed, yet did it not, while it obscured, diminish any part of the brightness of her genius. From this lady did Clementina, as they were coming from prayers, see a paper fall, which by taking out her handkerchief was flirled out. She took it  
up

up without being perceived by any other person, and opening it the first opportunity, found it contained some verses, which I have taken the liberty to translate, as near as the extraordinary difference there is between the Italian and our language will bear.

On the extensiveness of THOUGHT.

To my dear GLENCAIRN.

- “ HOW I despise the wretch with  
“ grief depress’d!  
“ Since all, who will, may in them-  
“ selves be blest’d.  
“ What adverse fortune to our wish de-  
“ nies,  
“ Extensive thought abundantly sup-  
“ plies.  
“ Tho’ shut from every joy which sense  
“ can know,  
“ Immur’d to linger out a life of woe;  
“ No bars, nor bolts, prescribe the ac-  
“ tive mind,  
“ Thro’ all I pass, and leave my clay  
“ behind,

“ With

42 CLEMENTINA: *or, the*

" With thee, Glencairn! eternally I  
 " dwell,  
 " While but my figure fills the silent  
 " cell:  
 " With thee I sit all day, hold sweet con-  
 " verse,  
 " And o'er and o'er our love's sad tale  
 " rehearse;  
 " Taste all the joys rewarded passion  
 " knows,  
 " And give and take ten thousand ten-  
 " der vows.  
 " What cannot Thought invent? Some-  
 " times I rove,  
 " In search of Glencairn, thro' the shady  
 " grove;  
 " When found, upbraid thy wand'ring,  
 " and take pride  
 " To hear thy little absence justify'd!  
 " Love in Security but faintly burns,  
 " But after doubts and fears more bright  
 " returns.  
 " That ours may, therefore, never  
 " know decline,  
 " Thy truth I question, and thou in-  
 " jurest mine;

" Then



- “ Then both forgiveness ask, and both  
“ obtain,  
“ And soft endearments compensate past  
“ pain.  
“ Thus, while in languishments dissolv’d,  
“ my mind  
“ Is to love’s secret joys alone inclin’d;  
“ But when remembrance to my soul  
“ explains,  
“ The envy’d triumphs of Britannia’s  
“ plains;  
“ Borne on the wings of Thought I thi-  
“ ther dart,  
“ Nor leave behind the treasure of my  
“ heart.  
“ In those blest’sd isles where liberty pre-  
“ fides,  
“ And native virtue vain restraint de-  
“ rides,  
“ With my lov’d Glencairn in the cir-  
“ cle fit,  
“ Admire the shows, and praise the in-  
“ ventor’s wit,  
“ Pity the enamour’d nymphs, who die  
“ to see  
“ Thy eyes, regardful, always fix’d on  
“ me,

“ Watching

44 CLEMENTINA: *or, the*

- “ Watching my smiles, while all their  
 “ arts are vain,  
 “ One single hope-inspiring glance t’ob-  
 “ tain.  
 “ Vast blifs! when thus I in idea prove }  
 “ Thy faithful heart no charms have }  
 “ power to move, }  
 “ Or tempt thy vows to any second love. }  
 “ But why on single blessings do I dwell?  
 “ The world is mine within this lonely  
 “ cell;  
 “ Thought makes me all I ever wish’d to  
 “ be,  
 “ Gives wealth, fame, honour, and,  
 “ what’s dearer, thee.

Clementina had no sooner perused these verses, which she doubted not but were composed by Miramene, than she assured herself she had now found a companion, such as would be pleasing to her. She longed till she had an opportunity of letting her know the discovery she had made; and the zeal with which she sought such a one, soon made her find it in as favourable a manner as she could have hoped. That lady had retired her-  
 self

self from the other nuns and probationers, in the hour allowed them for walking, to the side of a fountain, where she threw herself on the grass, no question to indulge that thought she had described. Clementina observed her at a distance, and, making what haste she could towards her, as soon as she came near enough to be heard by her, without at the same time having any other witnesses of her words; "How infinitely happy are you, Miramene," said she, "and how greatly would you have obliged me, though without designing to do so, were it in my power to follow the methods you take!" "What mean you?" cried the other in a surprize. "That if I were mistress of the same delicacy you are," answered she, "I could find ways to make this odious confinement more agreeable. But not to keep you in suspense," continued she, presenting her with the verses, "I saw this paper fall from your pocket, and tho' I confess my curiosity got so much the better of my good manners, as to oblige me to read it before I returned it, yet I assure you it has been seen  
ly

“ by no other eyes than my own; and  
“ I account it my good fortune to  
“ have this opportunity of proving my-  
“ self in some measure worthy the con-  
“ fidence of Miramene, by her own in-  
“ clinations, as well as to what I am in-  
“ debted to chance for.” “ I must con-  
“ fess,” replied Miramene, “ the loss of  
“ this paper has given me some disquiet:  
“ It might, indeed, have fallen into  
“ hands much less generous than yours;  
“ and I am infinitely obliged to you for  
“ keeping that a secret, which, in a place  
“ like this, you might be certain was  
“ designed to remain so.” “ It is true,”  
resumed the other, smiling; “ therefore I  
“ would not have you think I was whol-  
“ ly disinterested in what I did. I ex-  
“ pect no less a reward than a full rela-  
“ tion of those adventures which have  
“ brought you here, and reduced you to  
“ have recourse to those unsubstantial  
“ blessings which thought affords: for  
“ though you have described idea in a  
“ manner too charming not to make one  
“ extremely in love with it, yet I can-  
“ not forbear thinking fortune very un-  
“ just to allow you nothing more.” Mi-  
ramene

ramene returned this little compliment in words altogether obliging and suitable to the occasion. But the other repeating her desires of being farther informed of her affairs, and making many protestations of an eternal fidelity, she prepared herself to do as she was desired, and began in these or the like terms.

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The HISTORY of Signiora Miramene  
de los Verronvile, and the Baron  
Glencairn.

**I**T is needless to tell you that I am the daughter of count Honorius de los Verronvile, you have doubtless been informed of it; and also that having a numerous issue, the first motive which induced him to make one of us a recluse, was, that he might be the better enabled to match the others according to their quality; a pride too natural  
to

to our country. But by what means the unwelcome lot fell to my share, is what I have to acquaint you.

Know then, continued she, with a deep sigh, that last Carnival it was my fortune to see a young foreigner, who at one view informed me more of love, than all the volumes I had read concerning that passion, had the power of doing. Never were eyes so enchanting, a mouth so inviting, a shape so exquisite, a mien and air so attractive; impossible is it for heaven to create a form more charming. A great horse-course being to be performed, the greatest part of the nobility were assembled: but, oh! how dull, how ungraceful did they all appear, when compared to the lovely stranger! The very beast on which he rode seemed acquainted with the perfections of his rider, and every step pawing the air, expressed a joy and pride. With what majestic gravity he passed those of his own sex, and with what soft submission saluted ours! Chance, for among the crowd he had not then distinguished me, brought him to take his stand near where I had placed



placed myself. Two of my sisters, attended by the count de Albano, were at that time with me; the discourse with which he entertained us was therefore only general, yet in his eyes methought I read something more particularly addressed to me. And though I sometimes checked myself for that suggestion, as inspired by my desires that it should be so, I found it too pleasing to be for any long time resisted, and I gave way to the hope that he was in reality as much attached to me, as I already found myself to him. The secret passion I had entertained for him was extremely heightened by the praises every one gave him. I perceived the count had some little acquaintance with him, and was two or three times about to ask that gentleman the name and quality of my conqueror, but shame still prevented me; and I had the good fortune to be informed of all I wished to know, without seeming desirous of it. My younger sister, a girl of spirit, but not yet arrived at years to give suspicion she had any other reason than mere curiosity for her enquiry, made that demand I would have given almost my soul

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to

to have answered. The count immediately replied, that he was of a northern isle, on his travels for improvement, and called by those that knew him, Baron Glencairn. If you have ever yet been sensible of the power of love, and how much business that passion finds for the heart that harbours it, it will be altogether impertinent to relate in what manner I passed the ensuing night. You will know that, in the dawnings of inclination, so many soft, and withal pleasing, emotions fill the mind, as render the force of sleep of no effect. I had no leisure to receive the visits of so dull a guest; the bright idea of the lovely Glencairn chased him from my pillow, and engrossed all my wakeful faculties. Nor among the various reflections with which I entertained myself, did I once think on what might be the consequence of so wild a flame. I considered not the little probability there was my father would permit me to receive the addresses of a stranger, a foreigner, and, what was more, the native of a country so vastly the reverse of ours in all the principles of policy, custom, and religion. I endeavoured not to check  
my

my passion's growth by any suggestions that he might be **already** married, or engaged: on the **contrary**, I indulged it; his youth, and the **gaiety** of his air, assured me he was entirely unprepossessed; the fixed attention **with** which he seemed to have regarded me, flattered me with the hopes that he now first felt a tender wish in my favour. The good opinion I had of myself, and the complaisance I had received from the sex, confirmed me in this belief; and I doubted not but I had charms to gain, and to secure a conquest over his heart. The best part of the next day was spent in dressing and preparing for a ball which the marquis de Cantala was to give that night. I had within me a kind of an assured hope, that the lovely stranger, being a man of quality, and I found generally esteemed for his personal and acquired perfections, would be invited: and being always addicted to theoric happiness, formed to myself a thousand pleasing ideas of his behaviour to me on this second interview. And indeed I have since accounted it my good fortune, that I had those imaginations; I should otherwise have been more

at a loss than I was, to answer the gallantries with which he treated me. For my conjectures deceived me not; he indeed was there, and dressed to such advantage, that, if I before admired, I now adored him. But, continued the fair historian, to excuse myself as much as possible ~~for~~ entertaining so violent a passion for a man who had never declared any for me, and who I had so little knowledge of, I will, as near the likeness as I can, present you with his picture. His stature is rather tall than short; his shape is the most exact that can be, nothing was ever more justly proportioned; and tho' he cannot be called fat, he is plump enough not to have any thing of that bonyness which renders the lean so disagreeable; his eyes are black, and have in them a certain vivacity and fire which can no more be described, than safely seen; his mouth is neither very small, nor over large, but when he speaks or smiles, has charms which, without, seeing, cannot be conceived; his complexion is as delicate as consists with manly beauty, and most agreeably tinged with a lively red; his hair, which is of the finest  
brown

brown in the world, has something in the fall of it which adds extremely to the gracefulness of his air. But, oh! how poor an idea can all I am able to say of him inspire! Shut up the eyes of sense, and let imagination figure out something which neither the poet nor the painter's art can reach—Something above mortality: awfully lovely, divinely sweet. Then, and only then, can you comprehend the likeness of my Glencairn, my adorable Glencairn.

Clementina easily perceived she was now got into one of those extasies of thought which had inspired her muse to write in the manner she had been witness of, and forbore to interrupt her, though she made a long pause. But the other coming out of her reverie, seemed a little ashamed of having so far forgot herself; and having made some little apology, prosecuted her discourse in this manner.

He no sooner entered the room, continued she, than among that august assembly he distinguished me; and paying only

a bare complaisance to the rest as he passed by them, came and placed himself on the next seat to me. He entertained me in a manner which let me see his wit was not inferior to his beauty, and confirmed me in the hope that his love was at least on an equality with both. The ball beginning, he entreated me to dance with him, in such terms, as, had my heart been less engaged, I could not have refused.

It would be too tedious to relate the particulars of what passed between us that happy night; it shall suffice to say, he gave me all the assurances of his passion that the time and place would admit, and that all I could do was to refrain confessing the dictates of my heart. It is certain, that both my words and looks gave him sufficient encouragement to prosecute his addresses whenever he had an opportunity. A masquerade being appointed for the next night, I not only promised to be there, but gave him the particulars of my dress; which when I had, " 'Though," said he, " there is no doubt but that the divine air, which  
" always



“ always plays about Miramene, would  
“ discover her through all disguises; yet,  
“ lest the extreme throng should obscure  
“ her brightness, be so good to wear  
“ this on your arm.” In speaking these  
words he presented me with a jewel,  
which, I confess, I had not the power to  
refuse; not that I accepted it for its own  
intrinsic worth, but for that of the dear  
giver. The assembly breaking up, we  
were obliged to separate; but I had now  
enough to employ my meditations. I  
will not, however, trouble you with the  
repetition of them, they being only such  
as are ordinary to a mind in love; pleas-  
ing reflections on the past, and longing  
impatiences for the future.

The wished-for night arrived; I went  
habited like an Arcadian nymph. Glen-  
cairn was there before me, in the ap-  
pearance of a shepherd; but I had the  
satisfaction to perceive, that, till I came,  
he had sat regardless, and entirely free  
from all engagements; but the moment  
I approached, he rose, and met me with  
an air which testified the joy he had to  
see me. We were partners that night,

as we had been the former one: and if before I was but half assured of the sincerity of his passion, what he now said to me made me entirely so, the freedom of the place allowing the most particular conversations. Never did two people pass their time more agreeably. The restrictions to which I was sensible the custom of our country would oblige me to return, as soon as the carnival was over, of which this was the last day, made me lay open enough of my soul, to let the charming baron know there was nothing so great a happiness as the confirmation of his love. We consulted together after what manner we should correspond; and, in return to the many vows he had made me of an eternal constancy, I protested, that, as no man had yet the advantage of him in my esteem, so no man ever should; till, by some apparent falshood, he should convince me he no longer desired the continuance of it.

None of the perplexities of love had I yet experienced. I was satisfied of his affection, and, after some little time, omitted nothing which might serve to  
give

give him proofs of mine. Not a day passed without my receiving and answering a letter from him. As for serenades, riding the great horse before my windows, and all those ordinary gallantries with which the Italian ladies suffer themselves to be entertained, he failed not in paying them as frequently as he could, without giving too great room for observation. But now approached the time which was to put an end to this heaven of tranquility, and let me see that I must not expect to feed only on the sweets of love.

I was one day alone, when Signiora Jacinta del Tortosa came to visit me. She had been my intimate friend and companion, but was now married; and her husband having made some pretensions of a passion for me; and which it was believed were not wholly extinguished, had occasioned a little estrangement between us. As I extremely loved her, I rejoiced to see her; but when, by embraces and some expressions of kindness, I endeavoured to convince her of it, I was strangely surprized, to find her eyes

full of tears, and all imaginable tokens of discontent on her face. "My dear " Miramene," said she "see the confidence I have in your good nature, " and friendship---I come to disburden " my whole soul to you, to make you " partaker of a secret which yet I never " revealed to any in the world, and to " beg your assistance in an affair on " which the whole quiet of my future life " depends, and which I can no way accomplish without you." I made no scruple of assuring her I would refuse nothing in my power to give her ease. On which, after having conjured me to secrecy, she began to relate her adventures, in these or the like words.

The HISTORY of Signiora Jacinta del  
Tortosa.

**I**T is an almost received maxim, said she, that one cannot be much in love, without making some person a confidant; yet, though I was possessed of

of the most violent passion, sure, that ever animated a human heart, heaven and the dear object alone were privy to it; my friendship for you, and the desire I had to indulge my fondness in discourses on the charmer, have often opened my mouth to make you a partner in the secret, but shame still stopped the utterance of my words. I was, however, so far gone in the unhappy labyrinth, that I found it impossible to turn back; and when my too encroaching conqueror pressed for greater demonstrations of my affections than words could give, it was not in my power, though in my will, to refuse the utmost of his demands. In fine, I yielded to him what ought to have been infinitely dearer to me than my life, and he fully triumphed over my virtue, as he had done over my inclinations.

My aunt, with whom I lived, and who was intrusted by my dying parents with the care of me, soon perceived our intrigue, and, distracted with the apprehensions of what the consequence might

might be, took me with her into the country. Our removal was so sudden, that I had not time to acquaint my charmer of it. And it would be too tedious and too melancholy a relation, to repeat to you what I endured from her severe reproofs, and the absence of all that was dear to me in the world. It was in that retirement, and in the midst of my griefs, that the Count del Tortosa thought me worthy his addresses. I hated, I despised him, I concealed not from him my aversion, yet all was ineffectual. I was compelled to marry him. In a small time I came with him to Rome; I was immediately informed that he had paid the utmost devoirs to you. I must confess I was uneasy, not out of jealousy, but that I had deprived you of a lover, whose vast estate might, perhaps, have made him a welcome pretender; and it was on this account that I forebore my visits. Having acknowledged to you my love, and the effects of it, I need not blush to acquaint you, that never woman was more miserable than I was in this marriage. I could not behave to the count with even common complaisance; and when he  
com-



*History of an Italian Lady.* 62

complained of my want of tenderness, all the excuse I had to make, was my jealousy of you. Pardon the feint, the last resource of a hopeless, wretched, and despairing passion. But I will not prolong my narration by apologies. The object of my affections found the means to convey a letter to me. Nothing could express a more violent and permanent love than did those lines. He reproached me for having given myself to another, after having, by a thousand vows, and all the protestations of inviolable affection, devoted my whole soul to him; entreated, those joys we had already so luxuriously feasted on might be renewed, and contrived a way for us to meet. The rapture I was in at the receipt of this dear epistle may more easily be imagined than described. I did not fail to answer it as he wished: and, every thing favouring our mutual expectations, I again was blessed, in spite of the marriage-yoke and Signior Tortoso. By some cursed accident I dropped that letter, which was too precious to me to be committed to the flames. My husband, or some person who delivered it to him, found it,  
and

and I endured all that his jealous indignation could inflict. I was kept for some weeks in a confinement little different from those who have received the sentence of the law for some notorious crime. I verily believe, that from that time he conceived so mortal an aversion for me, that nothing but the consideration of his own honour, joined to the obligation he would then have been under of returning the dower he received with me, kept him from exposing me to the world, by publicly suing out a divorce. But whatever were his reasons, he did not do it; and, after a long mortification, I was set at liberty, at least had the name of it; for I think that state cannot justly be called so, which subjects one to the observance of a thousand eyes, all watchful for the discovery of some error, and leaves one not the power of following one's inclination. I should, however, have run all risques to have enjoyed his dear society, for whose sake I had already suffered so much; but, alas! he no longer seemed desirous of it. He attempted nothing to see me. And when I writ to him, as my woman contrived a way to  
put

put a letter into his hand, he answered it in terms which expressed the most stabbing indifference. Oh, Miramene! pursued she, bursting into a flood of tears, he no longer loves me; in spite of his a thousand times repeated vows, he renounces me, thinks of me no more. The man for whom I have abandoned honour, fame, and virtue, for whom I have broke my marriage-oath, dishonoured a husband who doated on me, and forfeited my eternal peace, and future hopes; he, the ungrateful, the inhuman traitor, flies my pursuing love, scorns my endearments, and considers not my sad endureings. Wretch that I am! some other woman has bewitched him from me, and triumphs over the ruins of Jacinta.

The excessive rage with which she was transported at this reflection, rendering her unable to proceed for some time, I took that opportunity of offering some consolation. "Perhaps," said I, "that he desists from all endeavours to see you, may be rather owing to his too great respect, than the want of it. He

“ He fears to prejudice your character—  
“ and——

I was proceeding, but she interrupted me: No, cried she, long did I delude myself with that hope; but it is no longer in my power. The count del Tortosa being sent for on some extraordinary occasion, to his holiness, with him the greatest part of my spies were absent. I took the opportunity, and sent my woman: but, oh! the villian pretended an engagement with some grandees, whom he said it was not safe to disoblige; cried, he was sorry it happened so, but hoped some other as favourable an occasion would present itself. It is little in my power to express what it was I felt at so manifest a slight; I raved, I tore my hair and garments, and was scarce prevailed on to spare my very flesh in the extremity of my rage. By good fortune the count came not home all day, and, before his return, I recovered so much the power of consideration, as to disguise the emotions of my soul, that he perceived not the confusion I was in. I wrote several letters afterwards, conjuring him to deal sincerely,

sincerely, and that if I was in reality so miserable as to be forsaken by him, that he would at once confess the truth, and put an end to a suspense more cruel than the certainty could be: yet would he not, even in this poor request, oblige me. But why should I detain your attention with a long detail of particulars, which may be as well avoided? After a multitude of repeated importunities, he at last consented to give me a meeting, if by any means it could be safely procured, but left the contrivance of it wholly to me. Innumerable were the stratagems I invented, and rejected either as dangerous or indecent; but at last pitched on one which wants only your assistance to make successful.

Here she stopped, to give me an opportunity of renewing the promise I before had made her, that I would omit nothing in my power to serve her; which I did with all sincerity, having now learned enough of love to have a kind of sympathy with those who suffered by it. On which she resumed her discourse.

You

You know, said she, there is lately arrived a French merchant, who has taken a great house, in order to expose to sale some jewels and other rich commodities he trafficks for, to all those parts of the world which have any thing worth importing. I told my husband, whose passion for you I am certain neither time, nor his engagements to me, have extinguished, that you had sent to desire I would go with you to this merchant, in order to see and purchase some of his rarities. I suppose, said I, you will make no scruple of permitting me to accompany that lady, who you cannot suspect would condescend to forward an affair unworthy of her. Pardon, continued she, the liberty I took in making use of your name; which I did, not only because I knew his passion would make him glad of the occasion to accompany us, but also because, since the secret of my heart must be discovered, I had more dependance on your sincerity and good nature, than on any other's of my acquaintance. I thanked her for the good opinion she seemed to have of me; and, having past that compliment, But, Signiora Jacinta,



Jacinta, said I, of what advantage to your wishes will be our going, if the count attends us there? It is his presence alone, answered she, gives me the opportunity I wish. There are extreme fine gardens belonging to the house this merchant has taken; you shall propose walking in them; I will leave you together, as if I had a mind to bid a greater price for something than I would be willing to let the count know, at least you must insinuate thus, as soon as my back is turned. The pleasure it will be to him, to have this opportunity of entertaining you, will make him not think my absence long. The merchant, who is apprized of the affair by my woman, will place my lover in a concealment, where I shall have the full opportunity of venting all the curses due to his ingratitude and perfidy; also give me notice if the count should enquire for me. Well, Signiora Jacinta, said I, could I believe your husband still loved me, I should give you a more than ordinary proof of my friendship, to endure his addresses; but as I believe myself pretty secure from any such mortification, am only in fear  
that

that you will not have half the time you want to express yourself to a man so much loved and hated. Engage but to do as I require, resumed she, it is all I ask, and will lay me under an eternal obligation.

You need not doubt, continued Miramene, but that I gave her all imaginable assurances of my integrity, and readiness to do as she desired; though I must confess, the count's behaviour, even since his marriage, had given me sufficient reason to believe him as much my lover as ever he professed himself.

In fine, she had my promise to come to her at the hour she mentioned; and, after giving me full directions in what manner I should proceed in every particular, took her leave.

She was no sooner gone, than I began to reflect on the power of love, and, more than once, asked myself the question, if I could risque as much as she did for the gratification of it? I was a little piqued, that, having exposed to me the utmost of  
her

her folly, she had, in her narration, so carefully concealed the name of the person who had influenced her to it. I forgave it, however, enough to make good my promise; and, when the appointed hour arrived, went to her house. The count received me with the utmost complaisance; and, in his speaking eyes, I read a confirmation of what Signiora Jacinta had told me; and doubted not but indeed I should be sufficiently persecuted with the odious declarations of his passion. We all went in the count's coach to the merchant's, where, after having fooled away about half an hour, I turned to the window, as if by chance; and praising the beauty of the gardens, Signiora Jacinta took the hint, and immediately cried, Will you walk, Miramene? To which I answering in the affirmative, we all adjourned to the place I seemed so well pleased with. We had not been there above six minutes, before, oh! heavens, cried she, I have forgot something I had to say to the merchant. Permit me, dear Miramene, to leave you for a moment. I returned no answer but an assenting nod: and the count seemed  
so

so much transported at his wife's absence, that I had no room to doubt but that he would entertain me in the manner she had imagined. She was no sooner out of hearing, than, taking one of my hands, and pressing it with the utmost tenderness to his heart; "Oh, Miramene! the love-  
" lieft, though most cruel of thy charming sex, how happy had Tortosa been,  
" could he have persuaded thee to a just sensibility of his passion! But, oh!  
" the golden days of hope are passed,  
" and I, despairing, have no plea for  
" mercy." "Fie, my lord," replied I, withdrawing my hand, "I find  
" you are of those who entertain so unjust an opinion of our sex, as to believe none of us can be alone with one  
" of yours, without expecting a de-  
" voir of this kind, else certainly I should  
" not hear such language from the husband of my friend." "Ah, madam!" resumed he, "am I so inconsiderable to  
" your thought, as that you can forget  
" I was your's before I was Jacinta's?  
" It was your scorn, which, driving me  
" almost to distraction, reduced me to  
" seek

“ seek ease in other arms. To no effect,  
“ alas! for still you hold my heart in  
“ chains, nor can I taste of bliss when  
“ absent from you. Your loved idea  
“ makes all my joy or torment. By  
“ heaven, continued he, seizing me by  
force, and giving me an eager embrace,  
“ to hold you thus, to gaze upon  
“ your eyes, all severely as they shine,  
“ and press your unrelenting breast to  
“ mine, yields higher raptures than the  
“ utmost favours could bestow from any  
“ other woman.” The promise I had  
made Jacinta, obliged me to endure the  
liberty he took with greater patience than  
otherwise I should have done. I rebuked  
him, however, with austerity enough to  
have dashed an ordinary lover; but whether  
it were that he found some encouragement  
in receiving less rigour than he expected,  
or that opportunities being scarce, he resolved  
to make most advantage of this, I cannot  
determine; but of this I am certain, that I  
had, in a few moments afterwards, enough  
to do to preserve myself from such effects  
of his boldness as I should never have  
forgiven myself to have suffered. I struggled,  
and  
at

at last got free from his grasp: but, unable to endure his persecutions, I ran towards the house, calling Signiora Jacinta. But neither she nor any other person appearing, as I passed the door of a little summer-house, the audacious count again seized on me before I was aware, and pushed me forcibly into it; where, having shut the door, "I doubt not, Madam," said he, "but I have transgressed already beyond a pardon, and therefore, having no more to fear, will not be prevented from making myself what reparation is in my power for so great a curse as your displeasure." I cannot pretend to give you any just description of the rage I was in, it was beyond all bounds: I raved, I tore the villian's face and garments, and, in spite of his efforts to stop my mouth, sent forth a cry which might have reached much farther than I had occasion. The door was presently burst open, and in rushed a gentleman with his sword drawn, who, at first glimpse, I presently knew to be Glencairn. Heavens! how great was my astonishment! But that emotion soon gave place to another more shocking, when I  
saw



saw them engaged with such prodigious fury, that I thought each pass both made would take a life. I shrieked a second time, and, if possible, more loudly than before. I ran between their uplifted swords; and, for my rashness, received two wounds, the one in my arm, the other in my side. The sight of my blood would, perhaps, have made both suspend their resentment till some other time; but I had no proof of it; for the same moment the merchant, with Signora Jacinta and several servants, came in, and disarmed them of those dangerous weapons. I was immediately put into the count's coach, who, after entreating forgiveness of me on his knees, begged he might have the honour of conducting me home: Glencairn made the same request; but the presence of the one was detestable to me, nor would I accept of the other for a different reason. Signora Jacinta was the only person who accompanied me; nor was it the pleasure I took in her society, but the impatience I had to be assured of what I already more than half believed, that Glencairn was the lover she had come thither to meet, and

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whose

whose opportunity with her I had taken so much pains to forward. She was no sooner alone with me, than she began to testify her concern for having engaged me in an affair which had drawn upon me such an affront. Exclaimed against the baseness of her husband, and endeavoured to excuse herself, for subjecting me to his ill usage, by a thousand protestations that she could not have imagined he would have dared to have acted in that manner. But, alas! I little regarded what she said; I had thoughts more painful to me than my wounds, or than the reflection of what ill consequence this adventure might be to my reputation. And as soon as she gave me time to speak, desired her to inform me, if Glencairn was the person for whom she had declared so violent a passion, and by what means he was apprized of the danger I was in, to come so seasonably to my relief. On which, not suspecting I had any other reason than mere curiosity for my enquiry, she gave me this account.

Glencairn, said she, being by appointment to be there before us, was placed  
by

by the merchant, in a little room adjoining to the summer-house, that being judged the most retired part of the house. I had no sooner left you with my husband, than I was directed where he was. It is of little consequence to you to be told in what manner he received me, or the faint excuses he made for his ingratitude; so I shall only say, that had I been mistress of any weapon to have revenged my cause, I had certainly struck it to his heart. I was in the height of my rage, when both of us were alarmed with your cries. Bless me, said I, it is Miramene's voice! Oh! that villain Tortoso! I had patience to bring out no more, but was running to your relief, when Glencairn stopped me: Hold Madam, replied he, I guess your apprehensions, and think myself the most proper person to assist a lady in an extremity such as this appears. I trembled for the consequence, but knew not how to avert it, any otherwise than by calling the people of the house, to prevent what their fury might attempt, which you see I did with all the expedition I could, though not with enough to prevent the effusion

of blood, whose every drop is more valuable than all that warms the hearts of both those villains. It was easy for me to know she meant me a compliment by these words; but my confusion, at what she had told me concerning Glencairn, was too great to suffer me to make any answer.

You may judge what a surprize it was to my father to see me brought home wounded, and in this disorder. He immediately demanded of me where I had been, and by what means I came in this condition. The troubles of my mind, joined to the faintness of my body thro' loss of blood, made me almost as unable as I was unwilling to answer him. My silence occasioned him to ask Signiora Jacinta the same question; but she, bursting into tears, said, I beg of you, my lord, to suspend your curiosity for a time; the condition to which your daughter is reduced requires speedy help; nor must we waste the time in vain enquiries on what you will hereafter be informed at full. But, continued she, I beg you will now permit me to depart; and when  
you

you hear the history of this adventure, condemn not Jacinta for the faults of Tortoso. She staid not for any reply; but as soon as she had ended these words, went hastily out of the room, and ordered her chariot to drive home; where no doubt she gave the count those reproaches his villany deserved; not unsatisfied, perhaps, that she had something in her turn to upbraid him with. But to their mutual upbraidings, the plague of matrimony, I shall leave them, to return to my own discontents, which were more violent than you can possibly comprehend. I had my wounds examined (which were indeed no more than scratches) and afterwards was put to bed, with orders that I should not be disturbed. Alas! I needed, indeed, to be freed from any vexations from without, having such poignant ones within.

My father, however, was not able to endure the uncertainty of this accident. He went to the merchant's, being informed, by a servant that waited on me, that it was to his house I accompanied the count del Tortoso and his lady, and with

a stern air demanded the whole of what had happened. He acquainted him with the whole truth, excepting only as to what concerned the Baron and Signiora Jacinta, who, for his own sake, he would not betray; knowing, very well, that if it were known he had encouraged a meeting of that kind, he must expect no customers among the Italian ladies: he therefore said, that Glencairn being at his house by chance, coming to look at some rarities, no sooner heard that the count del Tortoso was at the gate, than he desired no mention might be made of him, and for that reason retired to a room where company never were brought. As to my being left alone with the count, he said he was intirely ignorant of it, having left us with Jacinta in the garden; where we desired to walk for recreation; and being called to other company, knew nothing of what after happened, nor that Glencairn and the count had met, till mine and Signiora Jacinta's cries obliged him to return to the garden. My father thought himself still in the dark as much as ever, and, determined to assure himself, if possible, went to the count's,  
but



but could not see him, he being very ill of a wound he had received from Glencairn. At the baron's he also met with no other answer: but soon it grew the publick talk, that the count, attempting to ravish me, was prevented from it by Glencairn.

The two gentlemen were no sooner recovered of their wounds; than they sent mutual challenges to each other; but their meeting was prevented by some person who was made privy to it: and both being sent for by the pope, received a severe check, especially the count, who was bound in a great obligation never to disturb the peace of the holy see, by lifting his arm against the baron. This so much enraged him, that he hired brâvoes to murder that gentleman as he came home late one evening to his lodging. His courage, however, was his defence for a short time; and his good fortune sending two gentlemen that way, one of the assassins was taken prisoner; who, being about to suffer the punishment the law inflicts on such offenders, confessed that he was suborned to what he had done by count del Tortoso. On which that lord was again sum-

moned to appear before the sacred chair, and ordered to entreat pardon of the baron, and pay a considerable sum of money by way of fine for the wounds he had received by his means. The mortification of his pride in this manner made him quit Rome, and retire to a Villa he had some thirty miles distant, where it is said Donna Jacinta experiences the effects of his ill humour, and lives with him in perpetual uneasiness.

But while all these things were doing, I languished at home in the most pining discontent. As soon as I was able to write, I sent a letter to the baron, upbraiding him with his pretensions to me, when at the same time he continued a correspondence with my rival, and conjuring him to let me into the whole truth of that affair. To which he returned an answer in these terms.

To

To the loveliest, dearest, and most adorable of her Sex, Signiora MIRAMENE DE LOS VERONVILLE.

“ WITH that assurance, which is the  
“ companion of perfect innocence,  
“ do I attest my truth, my inviolable fidelity, to the incomparable Miramene.  
“ Whatever were my engagements to Jacinta, they were over long before I had  
“ the blessing of beholding you; nor did I  
“ ever pretend to any more than a transient amour with that lady. When I  
“ heard she had disposed of herself to the count, I imagined not she retained  
“ any remembrance of what had past between us, much less expected to repeat those endearments which could  
“ not now be continued without danger and dishonour. As I perceive she has  
“ acquainted you with the whole history of our love, I cannot be justly reproached with having betrayed my trust.  
“ I have only this to add to what she has  
“ already declared for me, that I had

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“ not

“ not consented to that interview at the  
“ merchant’s, but that I hoped, by ar-  
“ guments drawn from reason, to con-  
“ vince her how inconsistent it was to  
“ her present character, and the duty  
“ she now owed the count, to con-  
“ tinue a correspondence of this kind  
“ with any other man.

“ Believe me, my most excellent,  
“ most enchanting Miramene, that till  
“ I saw your eyes, I knew not what it  
“ was to love; that is, felt not any of  
“ those emotions worthy to be called so,  
“ was wholly ignorant of all its delica-  
“ cies, all its tenderneſſes. Never be-  
“ fore had I experienced thoſe ſoft de-  
“ fires, thoſe pleaſing thrilling pains,  
“ which rather refine than render ignoble  
“ the mind which harbours them, and  
“ without which even enjoyment has no  
“ no relish, nor can compenſate for the  
“ ſmalleſt trouble we are at to obtain it.

“ Could I be guilty of injuring thoſe  
“ vows I have made to heaven and you,  
“ its moſt perfect reſemblance, ſome  
“ dreadful puniſhment would cer-  
“ tainly

“ tainly be inflicted on me. No,  
“ that is a sin I cannot, if I would, be  
“ guilty of; I must sooner cease to  
“ be at all, than cease to be

“ The Divine Miramene’s

“ Everlasting Slave,

“ GLENCAIRN.”

During the time that my hurts confined me to my chamber, I had many other billets from him, much to the same purpose as this I have repeated, which by degrees abated my chagrin, and at last imprinted a full satisfaction in my mind. But, alas! I was no sooner recovered, than my father let me know he had taken a resolution to send me to a monastery. All my entreaties to the contrary were in vain. As it stood with his affairs, it had always seemed to him most convenient to bring up one of us a recluse, and was now determined that lot should be mine, who had made so ill a use of liberty,

berty, as to render myself by it a theme for the public chat of all Rome.

Accordingly I was sent here, the abbess of this nunnery being accounted the most strict of all her profession. I will not trouble you with any recital of the tears and exclamations I made, at being compelled to submit to a fate so much the reverse of my inclinations. There was no remedy, nor did I flatter myself with the hopes of any. Before my departure, however, I wrote to the baron an account of every thing, and received an answer from him full of protestations of an eternal fidelity, and the most solemn vows that he would see me soon, in spite of all restrictions. I loved too well not to believe; but long, alas! was it before I found the effect of his promises. I was beginning to despair I ever should hear further of him, when one day being permitted to come to the grate, where a near relation waited to speak to me, I saw a pilgrim standing at a little distance, and by degrees drawing nearer, and bowing as he approached, as if his business was to crave charity, I turned  
the



the wheel in order to give him something; I found it presently turn back with a letter on it, which, as soon as I cast my eyes on, I knew to be the character of my dear baron. Surprize and joy was very near making me betray all, but by good fortune the person at the grate had his head turned another way, and I put the letter into my pocket; and, as soon as I could, disengaged myself, and retired to my cell, in order to examine the dear contents; and found them such as not my own wishes could have inspired more to my satisfaction. He assured me he left Rome almost as soon as I did; that he had several times, and in several disguises, sought the means of seeing me; but all had hitherto been unsuccessful. The welcome mandate also contained a scheme for writing to each other daily; which was, that when the poor came to the grate, as they were allowed to do every morning, I should, under the pretence of adding something to the publick charity, come along with the officiating nun, where I should receive a letter from one of those poor mendicants, and return another to him; my dear Glencairn  
having,

having, by his bounties, devoted the unhappy person he described entirely to his service.

Thus, my dear Clementina, continued Miramene, do we disappoint the malice of our fate, conversing by intelligence, and exchanging souls from distant bodies. For some weeks have we beguiled the asperity of absence in this manner: how long we shall be able to continue it, the infinite disposer of all things can alone determine. But I am certain, so much do I depend on the sincerity of my dear baron, that it will never cease through any fault of his; and so happy do I make myself in the assurance of his love, that I would not exchange conditions with an empress. And though it is scarce possible I should ever know more of the sweets of love, than the theory of it affords; yet do I hug the pleasing phantom in my inmost soul; nor would be freed from it, to regain dull liberty, and an insipid peace.

Here Miramene ended her narration; and Clementina made her many compliments

ments on the generosity of her temper, in her readiness to depend on the man she loved, and that uncommon magnanimity of mind in making herself easy in a condition which would render most women extremely wretched. They had, perhaps, continued much longer in this conversation, if the chapel-bell had not summoned them to vespers. They had no farther discourse in private that night; but our Clementina was extremely pleased that she had found a companion so agreeable: for though yet she had no notion what it was to love, she thought the talk of it delightful: she now even wished for Bellario; and grew angry that he did not attempt something to see her. Young virgins, long before they experience the passion in reality, are animated by desires that look somewhat like it; they are charmed with being beloved; and take as much pains to attract a number of admirers, as she who doats on one, does to secure the conquest she has gained.

The tender things which she heard from Miramene, whenever they were alone, very much helped to soften her heart:

heart: she began to fancy there were pleasures in love which she had not been able to comprehend; and wished that fortune might send some object in her way which might inform her. Alas! she little thought how near she was to what she desired, and how great a curse the accomplishment of it would prove to her.

Day by day, as Miramene received a letter from her beloved baron, did she communicate the contents of it to her new friend. The extravagant professions of passion, and the soft vows of inviolable constancy, which every one of them was full of, made her ready to burst with inward spite and envy. “Am I less love-  
“ly, said she to herself, than Miramene,  
“that neither Bellario, or any others of  
“those who called themselves my  
“admirers, attempt any thing to free  
“me from this place? or is constancy  
“and sincerity confined to the Scots  
“baron alone? Though hopeless of  
“obtaining, still he loves on; and ra-  
“ther than forsake the object of his  
“passion, contents himself with the pos-  
“session of her mind: nay, for that airy  
“unsubstantial blessing, defies all dangers,  
“has

“ has recourse to all kind of stratagems,  
“ and quits all other pleasures. Oh,  
“ how happy should I think myself to be  
“ thus beloved ! nor would I be less grate-  
“ ful than this so much adored Miramene :  
“ I would be much more so. ’Tis not  
“ these walls, nor bolts, nor bars, nor  
“ watchful spies, should keep me from a  
“ lover, such as Glencairn : through all  
“ restraint I’d break, to fly to his em-  
“ braces, and prove myself worthy of his  
“ love. Miramene, they say has wit ;  
“ but this dull insensibility, this tame  
“ yielding to her fate, and poorly con-  
“ tenting herself with an ideal happiness,  
“ is a proof, methinks, neither of wit,  
“ nor spirit, nor resolution ; and makes  
“ me believe Glencairn cannot be a man  
“ of that vivacity she describes, to love a  
“ creature so stupid, so incapable of do-  
“ ing any thing to reward his passion, or  
“ attain the accomplishment of her own  
“ wishes.”

In this manner did she reflect, lan-  
guishing in the want of a lover, as much  
or more, perhaps, than Miramene did in  
the impossibility of being happy with  
her’s.

her's. But the charming descriptions which that lady was continually making of his constancy, his tenderness, and the ardency of his affection, fired the other with the utmost curiosity to see him. And being of a disposition too resolute not to compass any thing she once took in her head to desire, if it came within the reach of possibility, she soon found out the means of obliging herself, and at the same time seemed to confer the highest favour on Miramene.

One day, as they were sitting together, "Methinks, dear Miramene, said she, "this way of receiving letters, and" re-  
 "turning answers to them by the hands  
 "of a mendicant, is not a contrivance  
 "worthy of such love as yours; and if I  
 "am not too vain on the merits of my own  
 "invention, I have found out the means  
 "not only of favouring your correspon-  
 "dence with greater security, but also  
 "such as affords a probability of your see-  
 "ing each other." Scarce had Clementina finished these words, than her transported friend cried out to her to explain herself. "That I can easily do, resumed  
 "she;



“ she ; and I much wonder, that since  
“ our intimacy you never thought of it  
“ yourself. But not to keep you in sus-  
“ pence, continued she, when next you  
“ write, I would advise you to make use  
“ of my name ; let him know the friend-  
“ ship that is between us, and permit him  
“ to come to the grate without any disguise,  
“ and boldly enquire for me, by whom  
“ he may safely trust not only his epi-  
“ stles, but also the most secret wishes of his  
“ soul by word of mouth. And because  
“ the strictness of our abbess forbids any  
“ of us to go without a witness to the grate,  
“ you have a chance for being my com-  
“ panion in receiving his visit.” “ Alas !  
said Miramene, with an air much less  
elated than it had been a minute before,  
“ is this your project ? have you never  
“ heard, that the strictness of our order  
“ is such in this monastery, that no man  
“ is suffered to converse with us at the  
“ grate, without they bring credentials  
“ from our parents, or those persons who  
“ intrusted us to the management of this  
“ over-cautious abbess ? Glencairn, for  
“ this reason, would find it as great a  
“ difficulty to obtain the speech of Cle-  
“ mentina,

"mentina, or any other here confined,  
 "as of Miramene herself." "Your im-  
 "patience," resumed Clementina, "pre-  
 "vented me from telling you the whole  
 "of my design. I am perfectly ac-  
 "quainted with the rules of this place,  
 "and am provided with a stratagem to  
 "baffle them. You shall inclose in your  
 "next to the baron a letter of the marquis  
 "of Morella to me; it is easy for him to  
 "counterfeit the character: which, hav-  
 "ing done, he shall write in my father's  
 "name to the abbess, desiring she will  
 "admit the person who delivers her that  
 "letter, to the presence of his daughter,  
 "having business of the utmost conse-  
 "quence to impart to me. This, con-  
 "tinued she, I think cannot fail of the de-  
 "sired success, if your lover, to the rest  
 "of his perfections, has but ingenuity  
 "enough to imitate my father's hand in  
 "such a manner as may deceive the ab-  
 "bess, she being perfectly acquainted  
 "with it."

Miramene now recovered her colour;  
 and, convinced of the probability of the  
 undertaking, made Clementina more  
 retribu-

retributions than her stratagem deserved, even though it had been inspired merely by the friendship she professed for her; and the next morning, pursuant to her advice, sent a letter, which Clementina gave her, of the count's her father, with directions what terms the counterfeit of it should contain.

The enamoured baron made no scruple of obeying the orders he received, and in a few days performed his task with so much exactness, that a more penetrating eye than that of the abbess might have been deceived by the likeness of the two characters. She immediately called for Clementina, and herself being in presence, there required no other witness at this time; believing also that the commands he had for her might be improper to be delivered in the hearing of any but herself, she withdrew to a convenient distance. Though Clementina had not the least thought of depriving Miramene of the affection of her lover, yet she had vanity enough to wish he might think her as handsome; and to that end had taken more pains that day to render herself amiable, than was consistent with the rules

rules of a convent. He made her a thousand compliments on the sweetness of her disposition, so evidently demonstrated in her readiness to oblige her friend; and on her wit, which had inspired her with a stratagem, which neither of them, though animated by love, had the skill to form. Nor among the encomiums he made her, did he omit those her beauty merited: he said all to her on that head which could be expected from a man who declared himself devoted to another. He slipped into her hand a letter directed to Miramene, and let her know, that he would attend her the next day at the grate. She told him she would do her endeavour to bring that lady there, if possible; but if I am not yet so fortunate, I hope the discourse of an absent mistress may render the conversation of her friend not altogether disagreeable. As the Italians themselves exceed not the Scots (who all pretend to politeness) in good manners and complaisance, 'tis not to be doubted but that he made her an answer full of gallantry, and the extreme respect.

A long

A long visit not being agreeable to the reserve of the place they were in, he took his leave; and, in doing so, told the abbess that he had orders from the marquis of Morella to pay his devoirs to Signiora Clementina every day while he continued at Viterbo. And the good lady assured him that, on the credentials he had brought, he should never be unwelcome.

But little did he imagine what effect his presence had caused. He was indeed too lovely, not to appear so to a woman of Clementina's penetration. She thought she had never seen any thing so charming, so perfect, in her life. She was quite beside herself, to think how happy Miramene was in such a lover. From her friend, she all at once became her enemy; she envied, she hated her, for the possession of his heart; and would have given the world to have made a change in his sentiments. How dear, cried she, has my fatal curiosity cost me! What had I to do to examine into the merits of Miramene's lover? She told me he was all perfection. I might have  
believed

believed her, without giving myself so fatal an assurance.

Thus was a heart which had withstood all the temptations of wealth and grandeur, and the most tender sollicitations of half the youth of Rome, in a moment won by a stranger, and one who declared himself inviolably the slave of another. Perhaps, indeed, the difficulty, or rather the impossibility there appeared of gaining him, helped to increase the admiration she had of him. Bellario was a man generally accounted handsome, well-bred, and had every accomplishment which befits a man of quality. Many there were, beside him, who might boast an air as agreeable, a form as compleat as that of the Scots baron's. The cardinal, though somewhat advanced in years, was the most graceful person of his time, and had some advantages which few others were masters of. But these were all her most passionate adorers. These no sooner had seen her, than they became enamoured of her. They immediately declared their languishments, and gave her not the time to wish. 'Tis certain, that  
vanity



vanity, the desire of surmounting so many obstacles, and triumphing over a rival long beloved, had a very great share in inspiring her with so violent a passion as she afterwards gave proofs of.

Pleasant would it have been to any third person to have observed the impatience with which poor Miramene, innocent of what had happened, ran to her, to enquire how she approved her choice, and the hesitation with which the other answered. "Has he not all the charms," said she, "that nature gave to his sex, or that the vainest of ours could wish to adorn the man she loved? has he not something in his air, his mien, his eyes, for which language has no words, nor can description reach it? Tell me, Clementina, do you not find him more than even I, all passionate, and transported as I am, could speak?"

"In the affairs of love," replied she, "imagination does all; and how extensive yours is, I had a testimony in the first discovery I made of your passion. Though I will not say," continued she,  
F coldly,

“coldly, but the baron wants nothing that is  
“agreeable, nor can I blame your choice.  
“Though,” added she, after a little pause,  
“I could wish you would endeavour to  
“love him with less warmth, because the  
“circumstances you are in, permit you  
“but a small portion of hope.” “Why,  
“cruel as thou art,” resumed Miramene,  
“dost thou deprive me of my fancied hea-  
“ven? Though it is contrary even to a  
“lover’s probability, that I should ever  
“in reality be blest, the theory of it alone  
“keeps life awake. Were I to lose Glen-  
“cairn, that is, his love, his wishes, soon  
“should I become a stupid lump of clay,  
“as thoughtless, as insensible as the cold  
“shrines at which we offer our devotions.”  
“I pity you,” said Clementina, “but can-  
“not forbear advising you to moderate a  
“passion which in the end can bring  
“nothing but distraction. Think you a  
“man of the baron’s gaiety will for ever  
“content himself with contemplation?  
“No, when he finds substantial blessings  
“are impossible to be attained, he will  
“seek a cure, for such an unavailing flame,  
“in the arms of some other charmer, more  
“at liberty to make a present of her-  
“self.

“ self. Besides,” continued she, “ he is a  
“ foreigner, and you cannot expect will  
“ abandon for ever his native country,  
“ especially for such an ideal joy as this  
“ distant conversation affords.”

It was a malicious pleasure she took in thus reminding her of the misfortunes which attended her love; yet was there too much truth in what she said, to make the other suspect she had any motive for speaking in this manner but real friendship, and the concern she had for her peace.

The next day, instead of contriving any thing which might forward Miramene's accompanying her to the grate, she secretly made a complaint to the abbess, that she had indulged herself in reading a little book of amorous verses; on which the old lady ordered her cell to be searched; and it being found according to the directions Clementina had given, she was confined for the whole day, denied the privilege of the gardens or grate, and, by way of penance, obliged to get by heart seven penitential psalms.

When the baron came, therefore, a young nun, who Clementina very well knew was not without a tender inclination for a cavalier, and who sometimes visited her, was commanded to be her companion in receiving this dangerous charmer. As they were going toward the grate; "I have a little particular business," said she, "with this gentleman, favour our conversation, and I will not fail to return the obligation." The other assured her of her readiness to serve her, nor promised more than she performed; for she retired so far behind, that whatever had been said, it was altogether impossible for her to have heard one syllable.

"The inclination I have to oblige my friend," said Clementina to the baron, "is of little merit, since I want the power. I hoped to have seen you both as happy as this cruel grate would admit; but some mischievous planet sure reigns to day, and has disappointed all my will to serve you." "Not at all, madam," replied Glencairn, "since I am permitted to behold you. And so sensible am I of  
" what

“ what is your beauty’s due, that I confess I ought to wish no greater blessing than that of entertaining the excellent Clementina on any terms, or in any place.” “ Very gallant indeed,” replied she; “ but, as I have a desire to be serious, I would have you put yourself into a disposition to answer with sincerity what I am about to demand.” “ Though it is far from me to conceive,” resumed he, “ of what nature, madam, your questions may be, yet I am certain, it is neither in my will nor power to refuse you any thing.” “ Nay,” rejoined she, “ I require nothing but what is for your own interest and peace of mind to resolve. I do not mean myself, but you. I would have you reflect with reason on your affair with Miramene, and tell me what you imagine will be the consequence. In the first place she is a native of Italy, you were born in Scotland, there lies your dependence and estate. She is designed for a recluse, and such effectual measures are taken to make her such, as she will hardly be able to disappoint, even though you would be glad to take

“ her portionless, and abandoned by all  
“ the world. Why then do you both en-  
“ deavour to keep alive a hopeless flame?  
“ Ought you not rather to make use of  
“ your utmost efforts to extinguish it,  
“ and by an absolute forgetfulness of  
“ each, regain that tranquility which  
“ can by no other means be obtained?”

The baron looked earnestly in her face while she was speaking. He knew the advice she gave was good, but could not help being surprized at it from her. It seemed strange to him, that a lady, who but the day before had seemed so zealous for the continuance of their friendship, and had promised to do every thing in her power for the advantage of their love, should now all on a sudden persuade them to break it off. The knowledge he had of his own power over the fair sex, and the experience so many of them had given him of it, made him sometimes ready to suspect the truth; but willing to be more confirmed, as soon as he perceived she had concluded; “ Have you, madam,” said he, “ given Miramene this advice,  
“ or do you think it honourable for me  
“ to be the first who should desire a sepa-  
“ ration?”



“ration?” “You answer with an interrogatory,” resumed she: “but to set you an example, I will first reply to you, that I have left nothing unsaid to Miramene, which I thought might bring her to a just consideration of what was most fitting for her.” “And in what manner did she answer, madam?” said he. “Such,” resumed she, “as perhaps may not be proper at the present to inform you. When I have heard your opinion, I shall be the better able to judge whether it be convenient to acquaint you with hers.” “Ah, madam,” replied he, “compel me not, I beseech you, to appear ungrateful to a love like Miramene’s; as such I must, should I endeavour to withdraw my heart, while she continues to vouchsafe me hers. Soon, alas! we must be separated. My time of tarrying in these parts is almost expired, and we must then bid adieu for ever.” The air with which he spoke these words, convincing Clementina that the passion he was possessed of was not of that kind which drives people to despair, gave her no small satisfaction. “Well then,” said

she, "can I more testify my friendship  
" for Miramene, than by endeavouring  
" to wean her from a fondness so entire-  
" ly fruitless? Men never want their  
" amusements. You will soon forget  
" her, and, perhaps, devoted to some  
" new charmer's eyes, wonder you ever  
" had a wish for the faint beauties of the  
" Italian ladies." "That, madam," an-  
swered he, looking on her with the most  
beseeching languishment, "I am cer-  
" tain will never be my case. If I am  
" able to retain the impression Mira-  
" mene has made on me, till I quit Vi-  
" terbo, I may assure myself it will en-  
" dure while life continues, and may  
" defy not only the beauty of the Italian  
" ladies, but also of the whole sex.  
" Since," pursued he, with a deep sigh,  
" none can effect what the divine Cle-  
" mentina cannot." These words, and  
the manner in which they were uttered,  
giving her to understand, that if he were  
not already estranged in his affections to  
Miramene, he had a very strong incli-  
nation to be so, and that a very little  
temptation would turn the scale, made  
her whole soul exult with a pleasure till  
then

then unknown to her. To gain a conquest over the only heart she ever thought it worth her while to make any endeavours to attract; and to triumph over a rival of Miramene's merit, she thought was so great a proof of her own, as nothing could exceed. Discretion and modesty, however, forbidding she should immediately make a show of what she thought, "Clementina," said she, "has  
"neither the will nor the power to dis-  
"unite affections such as yours. And it  
"is but because fate is against you, that  
"I would persuade a moderation of the  
"passion, or else a resolution to sur-  
"mount all obstacles. To wish, to  
"languish, to repine, without an en-  
"deavour to be more happy, methinks  
"denotes a poorness of spirit. I am in-  
"deed a stranger to the force of love,  
"but have heard those possessed of it af-  
"firm, that there is nothing so difficult  
"but what it enables them to undertake.  
"Had some men been in your circum-  
"stances, or some women in Mira-  
"mene's, it would not have been these  
"walls that should have kept them at  
"so disagreeable a distance."

“ speak, madam,” answered he, “ of a  
 “ passion such as only yourself can be ca-  
 “ pable of inspiring. He who aspires to  
 “ the glory of Clementina’s love, must  
 “ be strangely unworthy of it, who would  
 “ not hazard all things, and think life  
 “ itself too poor a purchase for one smile  
 “ of hers. Miramene has, indeed,  
 “ her charms; but, as the lesser planets  
 “ are lost amidst the blaze of the all-daz-  
 “ zling sun, so can her influence  
 “ but faintly warm where the bright  
 “ day of your perfections shine. But,  
 “ madam,” pursued he, after a little  
 pause, “ can it be possible that you are  
 “ yet insensible of the pains you give?  
 “ Were you adorned thus richly with  
 “ all the charms that bounteous nature  
 “ has it in her power to bestow, only to  
 “ enslave our sex? And because the  
 “ heaven of your charms is above all  
 “ merit, must it be unattainable?” “ I  
 “ dare not boast,” answered she, with  
 a smile which added to her natural sweet-  
 ness, “ that I have resolution enough,  
 “ for ever, to withstand the efforts of a  
 “ passion which has subdued hearts much  
 “ better defended than mine: But this  
 “ I am

“ I am certain of, that I will, as long  
“ as I can, defend myself against it; and  
“ if I do at last become a victim to it,  
“ it shall be only in favour of a man  
“ who shall not shame my choice.”  
“ Your love, madam,” returned he,  
“ might invigorate the dullest soul, and,  
“ firing it with a wish to become wor-  
“ thy of the blessing, make it undertake  
“ things which would in time render it,  
“ in some measure, so.” “ All the me-  
“ rit I should require,” resumed she,  
“ would be an equal return of what I  
“ give. And as whenever I love at all,  
“ it will be to excess, I shall expect the  
“ same degree of fondness. That is not  
“ love where dull discretion guides the  
“ unactive will. The man to whom I  
“ give my heart shall think nothing in  
“ competition with the prize. Life,  
“ liberty, or even fame itself, shall seem  
“ but trifling hazards. He shall forget  
“ every thing, undertake every thing,  
“ dare every thing, to gain or to main-  
“ tain the conquest.” “ Ah, madam,”  
interrupted the baron, with all the im-  
patience of desire sparkling in his eyes,  
“ that this alone were sufficient to obtain

“ you! Were there no more required,  
“ who would not stake his every other  
“ hope, to gain the sum of all in the  
“ divine Clementina? But what, alas!”  
pursued he, converting the briskness of  
his voice into a tone all languishing and  
melancholy, “ have I to do with an idea  
“ which must be ever foreign to my  
“ soul? What is it to me the path  
“ which leads to heaven, since I am a  
“ wretch must never enter there, self-  
“ doomed to all the hell of wild de-  
“ spair?” “ My lord,” cried Clemen-  
tina, concealing her inward transports  
under the appearance of amazement,  
“ what is it you mean? You seem dis-  
“ ordered—Perhaps I am the cause,  
“ in entertaining you with discourses  
“ on a passion which, considering the  
“ restraint Miramene is in, may well  
“ indeed be looked on rather as your  
“ misfortune than the contrary.” “ You  
“ do well, madam,” said he, “ by the  
“ name of Miramene to remind me  
“ more of my unworthiness, and keep  
“ me from a presumption which might  
“ be unpardonable. But, oh! remem-  
“ ber,” added he, with a countenance  
in



in which despair was visibly imprinted,  
“ that whenever you would insinuate  
“ the merits of another, you must conceal your own. Too fatally bright  
“ those eyes break on the gazer’s sight  
“ to suffer the lustre of any other to  
“ appear. I said I would not speak, but  
“ how impossible is it to forbear? Forgive the involuntary crime; and permit me to depart.” A low bow accompanied these words, which being uttered, he withdrew hastily from the grate, leaving Clementina in a confusion, which cannot be well expressed. She passionately wished, indeed, to engage him; but then she wished not he should so suddenly have declared himself. She feared her behaviour had been too free, and doubted that what he said had rather been inspired by the encouragement she had given him, than by his own ungovernable passion. She questioned the force of her own charms when she reflected on those of Miramene, and trembled with the apprehension that it might be only owing to the difficulties his passion met with in the obtaining that lady, that he sought relief in a  
more

PIO CLEMENTINA: *or, the*

more easy conquest. She now experienced all the little inquietudes of love, and began already to wish she was still as ignorant of it, as when she had seen the noblest youths of Rome dying at her feet. She found, however, some little ease, when, having given Miramene the letter, that lady, according to her custom, communicating to her the contents, she imagined his expressions less endearing than they had been, that the compliments he made her seemed forced, and had nothing of that freedom which is the result of the heart; and, in fine, that the whole epistle had more of respect than tenderness, the infallible demonstrative of a decaying passion. And when she once had settled herself in this opinion, her disquiets by degrees abated, and gave way to emotions altogether the reverse. The image of Glencairn, all charming, all divine and lovely, rose in her soul, and presented itself to her in the most submissive, most adoring posture, that of her rival, Miramene, sadly dejected, standing by, and deploring her want of charms to maintain the conquest which  
once

once owned her power. Now did she exult with all the pride of a vain triumphant woman. Now did she glory in the force of her own charms, and despise those of the forsaken Miramene. It is true, good nature gave her some little shocks, in the consideration how unfaithful she was to a person who had entrusted her with the dearest secret of her life; but when the heart is once influenced by love, how little effectual against that all-powerful passion, are all the considerations of reason, friendship, duty, gratitude, or any other motive which may be objected? She was inflamed with the highest passion for the charming baron; she believed him equally influenced by her charms; and what lately occasioned her so many perturbations, gave her now only an extacy of pleasure.

She doubted not but he would come the next day to the grate, and linger about the walk at the time she expected he would come, till she indeed was told he was there. She had a letter from Miramene to deliver to him, and  
had.

had resolved to make so far a trial of him, that, whatever he should say to her, or whatever her own inclinations should prompt her to reply, she would not, in words, declare she admitted him on any score which might be prejudicial to her friend. But he disappointed her intentions, by taking a method altogether new, and against which she had not prepared herself. She no sooner saw him, than she presented him with a letter from Miramene, which he took with a cool air, and put into his pocket; after which, "I have nothing to trouble you with," said he, "but this." And with these words gave a paper; which she presently looking on, found it directed,

To the Divine Inspirer of my present  
Wishes, and sole Goddess of all my  
future Hopes.

———"This," said she, "I will not fail to deliver to the person for whom it is designed, the lovely, and the kind Miramene." "As it is not sealed,"  
"ed,

“ed, Madam,” replied he, “I would  
“beg you first to examine the con-  
“tents, and then, according as you  
“shall think most fit, either expose or  
“burn it.” He waited not her reply;  
but looking on her with eyes all-lan-  
guishing and tender, made her the  
most submissive reverence, and re-  
tired.

Dear as she prized his presence, his  
absence, gratifying her impatience to see  
what he had left behind him, was now  
most pleasing to her. She went to her  
cell, and having made fast the door,  
opened the dear billet, and found in it  
the following lines :

“NOTwithstanding the many disad-  
“vantages I labour under, and  
“the resolution I had taken to con-  
“ceal for ever a passion, which even  
“from its very birth was accompanied  
“by despair; my treacherous eyes, in  
“in spite of me, betrayed the secret of  
“my heart, and told you that I loved.  
“Yet

“ Yet impute it not to my presumption :  
“ I fear every thing, and, alas! have  
“ nothing to hope. My religion, my  
“ principles, my country, my demerits,  
“ and most of all, my seeming infidelity  
“ to Miramene, all plead against me,  
“ and present an image full of terror to  
“ my shuddering soul. Yet when I con-  
“ sider how impossible it is that you  
“ should be ignorant of your own charms,  
“ methinks you should rather pity than  
“ condemn the effect of a force so irre-  
“ sistible. Nor ought my having loved  
“ before, to be objected against me as a  
“ crime. The greater my prepossession  
“ was, the greater is your glory to sur-  
“ mount it. My love, the want of pow-  
“ er to conceal it, my sad despair,  
“ and the unspeakable tortures of my  
“ bleeding heart, proclaim the wonders  
“ of your eyes: and I have this happi-  
“ ness, even in the midst of anguish,  
“ that you never had a slave which gave  
“ you more exalted triumph. Whatever  
“ is my doom, I ought not to complain.  
“ It is a more elevated character to die  
“ for Clementina, than to live possessed  
“ of all the joys which love can give,  
“ with



*History of an Italian Lady.* 115

“ with any other woman. Be but so  
“ divinely good, to say you hate me  
“ not, and I will absolve my fate of all  
“ injustice to

“ The despairing, dying, but,

“ To the last moment of his life,

“ The zealously adoring,

“ GLENCAIRN.”

Those who are in the least capable of judging what love is, after having been informed in what kind of situation the mind of Miramene was, need not be told how great a transport she felt at a declaration so much wished. Conscious, however, of what was owing to the decorum of her sex, she would not immediately make known the pleasure with which she received his addresses. And having studied a little what was best for her to do, sat down, and answered his epistle in these terms:

To

## To Baron GLENCAIRN.

“ D OUBTFUL, like you, that my tongue  
“ might utter something which would  
“ either be improper for me to speak,  
“ or disobliging to you to hear, I chuse  
“ this way to declare my sentiments.  
“ At the reading yours, surprize was  
“ the first emotion of my soul; resentment  
“ next ensued, that I was become  
“ the property either of your mirth, or  
“ the mean ease of hopeless love another  
“ had inspired. But this, perhaps, too  
“ just remonstrance lasted not long: that  
“ vanity which is inherent to my sex  
“ making me imagine, that neither my  
“ quality, nor my person, merited such  
“ treatment, I was half tempted to believe  
“ I seemed indeed not less lovely  
“ in your eyes than Miramene had been.  
“ Time and your future behaviour alone  
“ will make it appear which of these  
“ various conjectures had most of truth.  
“ I permit you to give me the confirmation;  
“ till when expect no direct  
“ answer from

“ CLEMENTINA DI MORELLA.

“ P. S. Whatever in reality are your  
“ sentiments of me, I intreat you will  
“ not omit writing to Miramene. I  
“ had no small difficulty to excuse the  
“ neglect of yesterday.”

Having prepared this against the time  
that she expected him at the grate, she  
no sooner saw him appear, than, putting  
her head as near as possible, “ Have you  
“ brought a letter for Miramene ?” said  
she. “ No-madam,” answered he. “ So  
“ little have I the power to disguise my  
“ sentiments, that, though I have three  
“ or four times attempted it, I have not  
“ yet been able to say any thing which  
“ might look of a piece with those I wrote  
“ before. The knowledge of your su-  
“ perior charms taught me to despise  
“ not only those she is mistress of, but  
“ also those of the whole sex beside.”  
“ Pity,” resumed she, “ however, ho-  
“ nour, gratitude, and good nature ob-  
“ lige you to an endeavour to make her  
“ as happy as you can. And, methinks,  
“ it is easy for the pen to dissemble,  
“ though not for the tongue and eyes.”  
“ It was your own advice, madam,” re-  
sumed

fumed he, "that both of us should make  
 " use of our utmost efforts to banish a  
 " desire which from the beginning gave  
 " but a slender prospect of success. As  
 " your eyes, therefore, have effectually  
 " performed the work on one side, so  
 " let your tongue persuade the accom-  
 " plishment of the other, and cure the  
 " flame of Miramene, as you have con-  
 " verted mine." "The guilt," returned  
 she, "of having listened to a declaration  
 " from you, so prejudicial to her hopes,  
 " and the friendship I had vowed her, will  
 " not now suffer me to speak to her on  
 " that head with the same freedom as be-  
 " fore. My voice would falter, and  
 " blushes, unrestrained in spite of me,  
 " proclaim the interest I took in what I  
 " but pretended to counsel for her ease.  
 " It is therefore absolutely necessary, to  
 " conceal the passion you profess for me,  
 " to continue to counterfeit a constancy  
 " for her. I shall expect to see you to-  
 " morrow;" added she, giving him the  
 letter she had written in answer to that  
 she had received from him, "and, to ena-  
 " ble you to write, in the manner you  
 " ought to do, to Miramene, lay this  
 " before

“ before you, and imagine it is to Cle-  
“ mentina you are about to lay open  
“ all your soul. Make use of all your  
“ wit and eloquence to allay the rising  
“ tempest in her mind. As to what you  
“ would have me believe, I shall con-  
“ tent myself with such assurances as  
“ your tongue shall be able to give me.”

She would not allow him a longer conversation at that time, but withdrew hastily from his presence. Not indeed that such a behaviour was the effect of her prudence, or that she would not gladly have indulged herself in the pleasure of discoursing him; but she trembled with the apprehensions that Miramene by some accident might pass that way, and seeing him at the grate, without having brought any letter for her, might have some suspicion of the true cause of his errand, and, enflamed with jealous rage, declare the suggestions of her passion, and, by informing the abbess of his name, put a stop to the further progress of their love, though it should be the final ruin of her own.

To

To prevent her from entertaining any such imaginations, therefore, she told her he had not been at the convent these two days, seemed surprized at the neglect, and blamed his want of ardency, in terms which gave the deceived Miramene the highest opinion of her sincerity and friendship. She thanked her for the zeal with which she seemed to espouse her cause; but having too much real tenderness for the baron, not to have a perfect confidence in him, entreated the other she would judge with less severity. “ I rather  
“ doubt his want of health, than love,” said she. “ Pray, heaven, no ill accident has happened to him. I am too  
“ well convinced of his integrity, his honour, his tenderness for me, to fear,  
“ that till he ceases to be, or to have the  
“ power to give me proofs of it, he will  
“ cease to do it.” With so much softness and kind assurance did she express herself in his behalf, that it is possible, in spite of his new passion for Clementina, had the baron been witness of her behaviour, he had been charmed by it to a second change, as much in her favour, as that he had been guilty of, was in the contrary



trary. Even Clementina herself was shocked at her own perfidy; and had she not been swayed by a passion strong as frenzy, would have endeavoured to have brought him back to his first vows. But, alas! it is destiny alone rules love; reason, religion, and even the will is subservient to that all-powerful passion which forces us sometimes to actions our natures most detest; mother against daughter, father against son, contrives; all obligations of blood and interest are no more remembered; over every bound we leap, to gratify the wild desire, and conscience but vainly interposes its remonstrances.

Clementina having thus entered into the fatal labyrinth, it was now too late to look back on that wide field of liberty she had left behind, and could no more regain. The few efforts she made to do so were in vain, and but more convinced her of the impossibility of the attempt. The natural propensity also which she had to follow her inclinations, and to think nothing a fault she had a mind to do, very much contributed to render fruitless

all the endeavours she made use of to regain her liberty.

The next day, at the usual hour, came the dangerous baron, to pay his double devoirs: to Clementina all the tender expressions of love that tongue ever uttered, or that heart is capable of conceiving: to Miramene, those of the pen, dictated by wit and gratitude. The excuse he made to her for his late omissions, was indisposition: and as men seldom want words to defend ever so ill a cause, he added enough on that head to make himself believed, even though she had been by nature as diffident as she was really the reverse. She doubted not the truth of every thing he wrote; and, while he was every day more and more fixing himself in the affections of her rival, was easy, in a self-assurance that he had none but what were centered in her.

So powerful were the charms of this lovely North-Briton, and so difficult it is for a heart which is in earnest influenced by love, to conceal it for any long time, that he soon perceived the advantages

tages he had gained; and that Clementina was not less devoted to him than Miramene: she made no scruple, at length, of confessing it. She endeavoured not to hide the utmost extravagance of her passion from him. Whenever they met, she gave a loose to tenderness, and to all the proofs of it that a forbidding grate would suffer him to receive. But this was not all he wanted; his passion for her was of too warm a nature to permit him to be content with a platonic return. He longed for more substantial joys, for endearments which were not to be obtained while she, from whom he wished to receive them, was in a monastery. He failed not to complain of the severity of his fate; and she was willing to contribute all she could to his relief. In fine, the passion on both sides grew to such a height, that a nearer conversation seemed absolutely necessary for the preservation of their lives. Clementina vowed to refuse no hazard to reward the zeal of his affection. The transported baron gave her ten thousand assurances that he designed only the strictest honour, and wished no more than to make her his by the rites

of marriage. And these mutual promises being made, all that remained was the execution of them. The contrivance by what means was left to Glencairn, as being better acquainted with the world; and had his liberty to seek out persons proper to be employed in so dangerous an undertaking, as assisting a lady in making her escape from a convent. The task, indeed, was difficult; but what cannot industrious love accomplish? The adventurous baron soon found a stratagem; and, having prepared every thing for his departure, for he knew that, after such an action, Viterbo was no place for either of them, at least till they should be reconciled to the marquis of Morella, he put what he had devised in execution in this manner.

He had in his travels seen certain machines, in which men who dare brave death, in its most shocking colours, for a little gain, venture to the bottom of the ocean. Some, he remembered, were made of crystal, others of wood; but, in an island adjacent to that of which he was a native, he had once been present  
at

at the same experiment in leather : and this last was what he thought most convenient for his purpose. He therefore dispatched a servant to Rome, where there are many famous artificers, with directions to have such a one made by a model which he drew out on paper. The person he employed was so diligent on his errand, that, in a few days, he returned to his master, with an account that it was done ; and, according to orders, concealed in a secret closet, till he should send for it. The next thing our projecting lover had to do, was to procure four friars habits ; and, for a sum of money, and an assurance that it should never be known who had obliged him with them, he accomplished this with the same ease as the other. Thus far his endeavours being crowned with success, he disguised himself and three servants in these habits ; and, having sent for the leather diving-vessel, brought it between two of them to Viterbo, while himself and the other walked before it as in procession, singing hymns and spiritual songs as they passed along. They stopped at the Augustine convent, just about the

close of day; and some of the lay-sisters, happening to be about the gates, began to ask the meaning of so odd a procession, and what it was they carried with so much devotion: but our counterfeited friars refused to relate the story to any but the abbess; who, being informed of the good mens request, immediately vouchsafed them audience. The baron would not venture to be the spokesman himself, fearing his voice might betray him; but had well instructed one of the others, who was a subtle and ingenious fellow, and perfectly skilled in his lesson, accosted her in these terms:

“ Oh, sacred sister,” said he, “ never  
 “ did you hear a story more full of wonder than this we bring: never did our  
 “ holy religion boast of a greater confirmation of the power of saints and  
 “ ministering angels: never did heresy  
 “ receive a greater blow than this.—  
 “ A young maiden, born in an island belonging to the Spaniards, saw, in her  
 “ sleep, the Virgin, full of beauty, majestic, and sweetness. She commanded  
 “ her to leave that place, and repair to  
 “ Loretto,



“ Loretto, there to consecrate herself at  
“ her shrine: promising her, at the  
“ same time, that if she neglected not  
“ this injunction, she should become a  
“ glory to her sex while living, and, at  
“ her death, be placed among the  
“ saints. The pious maid relating to  
“ her parents the vision, they endeavoured to make her forget it, by telling her it was no more than a dream, and that there was no such thing in reality required of her. They had half persuaded her to think no more of it, when she saw the glorious shade, and heard the same command repeated. She was now convinced, and it was no longer in the power of any person to dissuade her from the voyage. She embarked in the first ship that set out for Europe; it being, in a manner, indifferent to her in what part of it she was landed, resolving first to go to Rome, and afterwards to Loretto. In fine, she set sail; but had not proceeded very far in her voyage, before the captain of the vessel attempted to seduce her chastity; and, being repulsed by her with all the disdain of

“ virtuous indignation, he had recourse  
“ to brutish force : on which she cried  
“ out with all her might to the Virgin for  
“ protection ; but he still persisting, the  
“ virtuous maid broke on a sudden from  
“ his grasp, and threw herself into the  
“ sea. But oh ! the miracle ! instead of  
“ sinking, or becoming, as was believed,  
“ the prey of some ravenous monster of  
“ the watery element, this leathern vessel,  
“ floating on the surface of the  
“ waves, turned as she fell, receiving  
“ her into its mouth ; and the wind  
“ changing that moment, drove her to  
“ her desired port, and threw her safe  
“ on shore. The wonderful manner in  
“ which she landed, was seen by a great  
“ number of persons ; some of which  
“ she obliged to carry the vessel, which  
“ had so miraculously preserved her, to  
“ a convent near the sea-side, where she  
“ followed it herself, and related to the  
“ abbot the history of her escape, and  
“ the design she had of dedicating both  
“ herself and this vehicle to the Virgin.  
“ On which, four fathers were ordered  
“ to attend, and bear it from thence to  
“ Padua, where we received and lodged  
“ it

“ it, and have now conducted to this  
“ place; not doubting but you will gladly  
“ vouchsafe to give the holy happy vessel  
“ shelter from impure hands, till morn-  
“ ing, when we will wait on you again,  
“ and proceed on our meritorious pro-  
“ gress.”

Had the abbess been doubtful of the truth of this report, she was not so whether she should seem to believe it. She knew miracles were a great support of their religion among the common people, and that there was sometimes occasion for a new wonder to strengthen staggering faith. She received the pretended fathers with great civility, and conducted them and their machine into the chapel, where it was set down with much reverential form; after which they took leave, and lay that night at an inn in Viterbo.

Now came on the part Clementina was to act in this enterprize, having been perfectly instructed by the baron what to do. After the first matins were over, she stole softly into the chapel, and with the same spirit and resolution that Cleopatra suffered herself to be crammed into

a hamper, in order to be brought to the presence of Julius Cæsar, did our heroine creep into the machine. Being entered, she found it commodious enough; and it is not to be doubted, but that the desire she had of escaping, and the fears of being prevented, made her lie as still and immoveable as death. The diligent friars, however, believing she was in little ease, came early to her relief. The abbess wished them well on their journey, and sent a million of commendations to the several monasteries at which they said they were to call in their progress to Loretto. The story taking air, great numbers of the populace followed them to the city gates; but the friars, though they praised their sanctity, would permit them to go no farther.

Being got rid of these troublesome companions, they turned into a wood, where a person appointed by the baron met them with horses. He had taken care to send his baggage before, to Siena, a city in the territories of the great duke of Tuscany; to which, having released Clementina from her leathern confinement, and mounted her on an excellent

lent horse, and changed habits, they made their way with the utmost expedition, throwing first the machine and friars dresses into a river, to prevent discovery of the way they took: even the tender things the lovers had to say to each other were adjourned, till they should arrive at a place where they might utter them with greater safety; not doubting but, as soon as Signiora Clementina was missed, pursuit would be made after them all round the country.

Nor were they deceived in their conjecture. Never had the cautious abbess met with such a disappointment in her care, nor never did any woman more resolve to revenge the imposition. The baron's lodgings was the first place to which she sent; not as imagining he had any hand in her flight, but to acquaint him with what had happened, and entreat him to join in an endeavour to recover her. But his sudden removal, and at the same time, presently gave her a suspicion of the truth; especially when the marquis of Morella, who happened to come to Viterbo, with a design to talk to his daughter, assured her that he wrote

no such letter as she had received by the hands of the baron, nor had given that gentleman any permission to visit her.

I will leave the reader to guess the rage of this perplexed father, and the vows he made to take the most bitter revenge on Glencairn, if ever he was found; as also the sad distraction of the unhappy Miramene, betrayed by the only persons in the world whose faith she had trusted and depended on.

All imaginable diligence was used in the pursuit of these counterfeit friars: but fortune took the part of love, and disappointed all the endeavours made to separate the bodies of two persons, whose hearts were at present united by the fondest and most violent affection that ever was the theme of history.

Our lovers proceeding in their journey without any interruption or cross accidents, safely arrived at Sienna; which, by reason of the sweetness of its situation, invited them to stay some time in it; the distance it was from Viterbo, giving them

no



no room to apprehend discovery. The baron had now the opportunity of testifying how just a sense he had of the favours of Clementina, and how happy he thought himself in receiving proofs of her affection, so infinitely above what are ordinarily to be found: and that young charmer, extreme in all her passions, and altogether unskilled in the art of disguising them, poured out the whole lavish fondness of her soul, and did what all women, who would preserve their lovers, should, of all things, most carefully avoid; that of testifying she thought herself equally favoured by his affection, as he acknowledged to be by hers. Man is naturally imperious, and never fails to exert his prerogative, when the too submissive temper of the fair permits him to do so; she, therefore, who would always be loved, always esteemed, should never seem to think herself obliged to the man she obliges; the favours she confers on him, should wear the air only of gratitude, to the end that he may be still endeavouring, still industrious to please her. A little mixture of doubts and fears keeps love awake; but dull security, if  
it

it not entirely fatiates, lulls the sleeping ardors ; and what we apprehend no danger of losing, we think it needless to take any pains to preserve. But Clementina, unexperienced in the temper of mankind, and thinking it rather her glory, than her shame, to love a man of so much merit as Glencairn, declared, without reserve, the sentiments of her soul ; and had it been in the power of words to have enhanced the tenderness she had for him, she had certainly made use of them.

The vast return she received from him, did not, however, as yet convince her she was in the wrong ; and, had a divine missionary from heaven descended to warn her of the danger she was in, she had, without doubt, rejected the information, and depended more on the sincerity of her dear baron, than on the indisputable decree of fate itself.

With equal impatience both languished to be united in those bonds, which are not to be dissolved but by death ; but Lent being begun when they arrived at  
Sienna,

Sienna, there was no possibility of their wishes being accomplished till Easter. The baron, burning to obtain from the charmer of his soul, joys more substantial than the theory of love can yield, pressed her, with all the moving eloquence of raging, wild, impetuous passion, to gratify his present wishes. Tender and amorous as Clementina was, this proposition shocked her: she could not think of forfeiting her honour, without a virtuous indignation to the man, who would persuade her to it; and, as she was a professed foe to all dissimulation, scrupled not to reveal her sentiments on this head, as freely as she had done those of her passion; but the common defence men make on this occasion, that the boldness they are guilty of, proceeds not from want of respect, but an excess of love, soon won her to forgiveness, and he no oftener offended, than she pardoned. They were discoursing one day on this theme, when she cried out to him, "Oh! Glencairn, you cannot truly love me, when you desire I should render myself unworthy of your affection." "I fear you rather think me deserving  
" of

“ of no more than a transient tenderness;  
“ and, after you had reaped the effects  
“ of my too great inclination to become  
“ your’s, would despise the easy conquest, and leave me to repent what I  
“ had done.” To which he replied in this manner: “ Oh! Clementina,” said he, “ did you know so little of your own  
“ charms, or could believe the heart that  
“ once has felt their influence, could  
“ ever raze it thence? Yet even that,  
“ methinks, should be no objection to a  
“ soul so generous as your’s. Are there  
“ any spells in the hymeneal contract,  
“ which can set bounds to inclination?  
“ Were I disposed to rove, or were it  
“ possible I could know desire for any  
“ other woman, would the name of husband dash it in me? Marriage is, indeed, a sort of a confinement to the  
“ body, but the mind is still at liberty;  
“ and, could you submit to be content  
“ with forced endearments, could you  
“ satisfy yourself with the knowledge  
“ that I was your’s by compulsion? That  
“ law, duty, and the censure of the  
“ world, were all that bound me to you?  
“ No, love scorns to be obliged to ought  
“ besides

“besides itself for the joys it receives;  
“and were I this moment in a licensed  
“possession of all your charms, I should  
“but half be blessed, did I imagine form,  
“or the dull ties of wedlock, had the  
“greatest share in inspiring you to yield.  
“Oh! Clementina,” continued he, perceiving she was not prepared with an answer to this unexpected sophistry,  
“did you love with that delicacy I do,  
“you would rejoice to give and take  
“this proof, that love, and love alone,  
“rendered our vows inviolable: and  
“when the happy time arrives, which  
“will make us, in the world’s eye,  
“what, in effect, we were before, how  
“mutual will our obligations be? How  
“will each be convinced of the ardor  
“and constancy of the other; and how  
“little possession has the power to facilitate a passion such as ours?”

This kind of reasoning falling in with the romantic genius of Clementina, she listened to the dangerous argument, and, at length, suffered herself to be overcome by it, and the triumphant baron fully accomplished his desires. An encreate  
of

of fondness, however, ensuing, rather than any diminution, she was far from feeling any regret at having given him this demonstration; how entirely she was swayed by love, and he perpetually renewing his vows of integrity, she gave herself not the leisure to reflect, how miserable she must be, if ever he proved false.

But soon, alas! the golden pleasures fled, and she experienced how deceitful love's gay prospect proved at near approach. Being, as it were, now settled, the baron not designing to quit that place for some months, she desired the woman of the house where she lodged, to procure some person of her own sex, to attend her in her chamber; and, accordingly, had a young woman recommended to her, whom, at first sight, she was infinitely pleased with. There was something so inexpressibly sweet and modest in the countenance of young Ismenia (for so she was called) as engaged as many as saw her; nor was her manner of behaviour, nor the replies she made to any questions asked her, such as could give  
Clemen-



Clementina room to doubt, that her education had not been above her present appearance : in fine, she found enough in her to make her know she would be an agreeable companion, and immediately entertained her.

She had not been with her many days, before her diligence to please, her humility, and agreeable conversation, whenever they were alone, made her become extremely dear to her mistress ; and that lady, whose thoughts were always taken up with her beloved baron, and could, with pleasure, discourse on no other theme, after having exacted from her a vow of secrecy made her the confident of all that passed between them ; her undermining the unhappy Miramene in his affections, the means by which she had carried on her amour with him in the monastery, and her escape from thence, not even concealing the arguments by which he won her to yield him the privileges of marriage, without the ceremony, and that he was not her husband, though he passed for such. Whatever were Ismenia's thoughts on what she heard,

heard, she had too just a sense of the distance there was at present between her condition, and that of the person she served, to make them known; and having been often observed by Clementina, to sigh while she was relating her history, being asked by that lady, the occasion of her being so much affected, she only said, that she lamented those of her sex, who had an equal tenderness of soul to influence them to the like condescensions, but wanting the same charms, could not expect to find so grateful a return. In spite of her efforts to the contrary, those words were uttered in so feeling a manner, that a person of infinitely less discernment than she to whom they were addressed, might have perceived they had a more than ordinary meaning in them: and Clementina, who wanted not a considerable share of that curiosity which is natural to her sex, and besides was well enough pleased in the belief of what she afterwards was convinced in the truth of, that her companion was no less insensible of the force of love, than herself, would not give over pressing, till partly by entreating, and

and partly by commanding, she prevailed on her to relate the history of her adventures, which she did in terms like these.

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THE HISTORY of ISMENIA.

THE duty I owe you, madam, as a servant, said she, and the inclination I have to love you as a friend, were my condition such as might entitle me to the honour of that name, will neither of them permit me to conceal what you express a desire to be informed of; nor could I give a greater proof how much I prefer obeying you, to any other considerations whatsoever, because, though my misfortunes are such as might excite the tenderest pity, had they fallen on me through any thing but my own ill conduct; yet the means which have incurred them, will, when known, I fear, draw on me a greater share of blame than compassion. However, I will run even that risque, to testify how entirely I am  
yours.

yours. There is no secret of my unhappy life shall be hid from you, in which no other person, but myself, is interested; but, for the sake of those who have been guilty of no crime, but that of begetting so disobedient and unworthy a child, permit me, I beseech you, madam, to conceal the name of my parents, nor involve their innocence and virtue, in the disgrace of the guilty Ismenia: I beg it may suffice, that I inform you, my father is a person of no inconsiderable family and fortune, and remarkable for many advantages, above others of his rank and quality, particularly for having a numerous issue of both sexes, of which I am the least indebted to nature for those perfections which immediately attract the beholders admiration; yet am I not happily deprived of sufficient charms to create desires which seldom tend to other than the ruin of the inspirer. It was not, however, my fate to have the little beauty I am mistress of, obscured by that of three more lovely sisters: an aunt, from whom I received the name of Ismenia, when I was scarce five years old, took me under her care,

and

and bred me with her in a distant province. She was entirely childless, and bore so tender an affection to me, that she has been often heard to say, "She regretted not her barrenness, since she had, in me, all the pleasure which those who are mothers feel, without the pain." I was arrived at the age of thirteen, when my uncle died, and the extreme fondness she had for me, and the delight she took to perceive the improvements I made in those studies, her great indulgence influenced her to have me instructed in, not only served to alleviate her grief for the best husband in the world, but also was thought would be a defence against her marrying again: but the world was mistaken in that point; a young chevalier far beneath her, either in birth or fortune, and vastly unequal in years, he not being above twenty two, and she pretty near fifty, had charms for her, from which neither the memory of her late husband, nor the numerous examples of the misery which generally attends such unfuitable matches, could guard her heart. But my uncle not being laid in earth above eight months,  
and

and the considerations how much such an adventure would become the publick chat, no way to the reputation of her prudence, made her keep the nuptials secret for some time. Not able to deny herself, however, the pleasure of that conversation she had so dearly purchased, he came almost every day to our house as a guest: the freedom he was treated with, and the frequency of his visits, made him to be looked upon, by many of our acquaintance, as a person who came to make his addresses to me; and whether it were, that being rallied by my companions on his account, that first put it into my head, I know not; but of this I am certain, that he ran continually in my mind; I thought on him with pleasure, and wished, with passion, that their suggestions might be true, who believed his only business at our house was his love to me. It seemed strange to me, indeed, that, if it were so, he had never given me the least hint of it, or that my aunt, to whom I flattered myself he might have declared himself, should never have spoke to me concerning it: but then, alas! how easily do  
we



we find reasons for what we wish! I imagined she might have communicated his proposals by letter to my father, and would not have an affair of that consequence enter my thoughts, till she had received his answer and approbation. Thus, for a good while, did I delude myself with the common day-dreams of a maid in love; but a messenger arrived from my father on some family affairs, and my aunt still continuing dumb on the subject I so much longed to hear, I knew not what to think. Had he appeared an improper match for me, and my parents had forbid his suit, my aunt would no longer have entertained him, said I to myself, and yet he comes as usual, is received with the same freedom: no, it cannot be, I have deceived myself by the opinion of the world; it must be on some other score that he frequents our house: he thinks not of Ismenia! unhappy, unattractive creature that I am! Scarce is it possible to represent to you how miserable I was while these reflections lasted; and, had not an accident happened which soon put a period to them, I believe I should have died.

H

Oh!

Oh! would to Heaven I had," continued the fair historian, bursting into a flood of tears, "death then had found me innocent, and my fate deserved only the compassion, not censure of the world."

After a short interval of those consequential strugglings, which the renewing in one's remembrance past misfortunes occasion, she begged pardon of Clementina for the pause, and prosecuted the little narration she had promised, in this manner:

"My aunt," resumed she, "having a great deal of company with her on business relating to her estate, the chevalier went to divert himself in the garden, 'till she had dispatched what she was about. I happened to be there when he came in; but having thrown myself on a bank so shadowed over with trees, that the boughs hung almost to the ground, forming on one side a close alcove, he saw me not immediately. The desire I had of entertaining him, would have made me quit my leafy covering; but the conscious shame of what I felt, prevented

prevented me, and I lay without motion, while he passed several times backward and forward, so near, that his garments rustled the boughs to which I owed my concealment; till happening, either for the sake of variety, or imagining the other walk more pleasant, he crossed a grass-plot, and came to that side where I was wholly exposed to his view. I rose as he approached, and forced myself to as much composure as possible, though with inward tremblings which no words can make you comprehend; but reflect, madam!" pursued she, "reflect in what sort of situation was your own soft soul, when first you had the opportunity of seeing and discoursing alone the charming baron, and you will then, and only then, be capable of judging mine. As he came more near, he fixed his eyes intently on my face, and I advancing two or three steps to meet him, as in complaisance to a person who was treated with respect by my aunt, he took one of my hands, and, tenderly pressing it between both his, continued in that posture for some minutes, without speaking: surprise, at his behaviour, and the confusion in my

H 2                    thoughts,

thoughts, kept *me* also silent; but he has since informed me, "That my eyes  
 "were at that time but too true inter-  
 "preters of my heart." Encouraged by  
 those tell-tale witnesses, or, as he said,  
 unable any longer to restrain a secret  
 which had long struggled for vent,  
 "Charming Ismenia," cried he, "how  
 "blessed will be the man who shall pos-  
 "sess your beauties, and how accursed  
 "is he deprived of hope, and damned  
 "to the hell of knowing he must ever,  
 "ever be forbid the joys of Paradise in  
 "these dear arms!"

Oh! madam, pursued Ismenia, now  
 I must again entreat you to recollect the  
 first dear moments of discovered passion:  
 think what you felt, and, by yourself,  
 pity me in so amazing, and, at the same  
 time, so transporting a juncture; for  
 words are too poor to represent it. I  
 had that moment something within me  
 too ravishing for description, and all  
 overwhelmed in the sudden hurry of de-  
 light, and incapable of disguise, my  
 soul disclosed itself naked in my eyes.  
 The penetrating charmer read my whole  
 meaning

meaning there ; my long hid languishments, my most secret wishes, now shewed themselves, and all the lover was betrayed to view. I spoke not, but received the most tender pressures of his passion, with an irresistence which I cannot confess, without being ready to die with shame ; yet so it was. He proceeded to liberties, encouraged by my silence, and enduring greater than modesty allows, he kissed, embraced my unreluctant breast ; he did I scarce know what, yet still I bore it, till roused by virgin bashfulness, I at last gathered courage enough to bid him desist, asked, how he durst presume so far, and such like interrogatories, which it is easier for you to imagine than for me to repeat ; but, alas ! how vain had these little repulses been, had not my aunt, who had just then got rid of her troublesome engagement, come into the garden in search of her charmer. His back being toward the path she came down, he saw her not ; but my eyes being directed that way, I immediately perceived her, and presently cried out, " My aunt ! " At these words he started, and let go the

hold he had taken of me. Never shall forget the confusion which at that time was visible in his countenance, though I, poor silly innocent, then thought it proceeded from no more than being taken in a private conference with a person whom he was not yet authorised to address: for, from this fatal interview, did I imagine, that my father, not quite approving, nor absolutely refusing the proposals he had made on my account: that my aunt would neither altogether discourage, nor countenance his pretensions.

Now was I again involved in that labyrinth of love, so pleasing at its entrance, and so perplexing when too far wandered into. A second time I wished, I languished, with a delightful expectation of something for which I yet had found no name. Many days passed without any interruption to this pleasingly painful reverie of the mind; but at length that one day arrived, which was decreed by fate, to put an end at once to all my hopes and fears, and render me the most unhappy, most guilty, of creat-  
ed



ed beings. Some affairs of moment obliging my aunt to take a little journey, she would not permit me to accompany her, because a very great ball being to be given by a person of distinction in our neighbourhood, the indulgence she had for me, would not suffer her to deprive me of the diversion it might be to me, during her absence: this monster of mankind, for by no other epithet shall I henceforth distinguish him, came to our house, and pretending to be seized with a sudden indisposition, gave me the opportunity of desiring him to stay till his return of health should permit him to do it with safety. The esteem my aunt profest for him, rendered it my duty to make this invitation, though my heart should have had no share in it; but how nearly that was interested, and how ready I was with an excuse to detain him, I need not repeat, after having made known the folly of my passion to you.

The pleasure which sparkled in his eyes, at my requesting him to stay, and the eager pressures he gave my hand whenever he had an opportunity, soon

convinced me his distemper was no more than a feint; and this stratagem he had made use of to be near me, gave my vanity the highest exaltation: the better to carry on his design, however, and to prevent the servants suspicion, he refused to sup, and entreated that, since he was compelled by his illness, to be a troublesome guest, he might be permitted to go to bed. I granted it, and ordered he should be conducted to an apartment which was always kept for strangers.

Oh! with what a sweet contentment in my mind did I pass the remainder of that evening! It was such a heaven, methought, to have the charmer of my soul lodged under the same roof with me, and to know that he did so only for my sake, that I desired to partake no greater bliss. Ah! of how short duration were my joys, and how dear do I now pay, and must for ever pay, for that delusive comfort! The time of night being arrived in which I used to go to bed, I retired to my chamber, and the tranquility of my mind soon lulled me into a profound sleep,

sleep, which I awoke not from, but to misery, disgrace, and everlasting infamy.

The traitor being perfectly acquainted with the house, and knowing the room I lay in, when he found all the family were withdrawn to rest, every thing hushed, and the eye of heaven only waking to observe his base attempt, stole softly from his bed and entered mine. I heard him not, suspected not his intent, I call to witness all the saints, nor dreamed of my undoing, till by his too fierce embrace, the bands of sleep were broke, and I found myself and him in a posture, such as took from me the power of resistance. But let me not dwell on the shameful story. It is shocking to remembrance, and drives me almost to distraction. It is enough to say I was ruined, for ever lost to virtue, and to peace. The guilty transport over, and the power of speech, with recollection, again returned, I upbraided him in terms, as severe as my fond doating heart would give me leave, and conjured him to repair the injury he had done me, by a

H 5                      speedy

speedy marriage : to to the first of these articles, he replied with all the endearing insinuations that the artifice of his sex could inspire ; but when I urged the last, he answered but with sighs, which seemed to cleave his breast. Well might I imagine there was some dreadful impediment in the way, but what I could not guess, and was far from imagining the truth : after frequent repetitions of my demand, and urging it with greater earnestness, he at last begged I would desist all further discourse of it that night, and, to bribe me to forbearance, gave me his solemn oath, that the next morning I should be informed at full in every thing I desired to know. Had it not been something too shocking for relation, it was in those soft moments he would certainly have chose to have related it, and had I not been the most blinded and easily deluded wretch, I might have perceived it, and flung from his embraces ; but never sure was any infatuation equal to mine ! I contented myself with the promise he had made me, permitted him to continue his ruinous endearments, nor forced him from my arms, till the gay  
fun,

fun, rising on my shame, reminded us both of the danger to which we were exposed.

When left alone, indeed, I began more to consider on what had happened, than the tumultuous pleasure his presence afforded, would give me leave to do. I thought there was something strangely mysterious in the affair, and was but too well assured, that, had his designs been such as tended to ought else than my undoing, it would have been in a quite different manner he would have behaved. Hence followed reflections, such as were natural and just for a woman in my circumstances, and the severity with which I judged myself, threw me into so great a disorder, that nothing but the impatience I had of being informed of the whole fatal truth, would have made me quit my bed that day.

The confusion which appeared in his looks as he entered the room where I waited to receive him, more confirmed me in my belief, that what I had to hear,

would make me stand in need of all my courage to support. I immediately asked him, "if he was prepared to satisfy me?" To which he answered in this manner; "Yes, madam," said he, "there is no longer a possibility of concealing the dreadful secret; you must soon know it from other hands than mine, and, perhaps, at a time, and in company, where it would most nearly concern you not to appear interested in it. To prevent, therefore, what might be the consequence of a publick surprize, as well to perform the promise you last night exacted, I chuse to be myself the unraveller of my own guilt. But think! oh, think!" continued he, presenting me with a paper, "what it is I endure in so cruel a constraint, and how great must be that passion which could influence a man trained up in the strictest rudiments of honour, to act as I have done." The hurry of my spirits would not suffer me to make any reply to these words; but beginning to unfold the paper, "Hold, dear Clementina," resumed he, "by all that tenderness which so divinely engaged  
"you



“ you to forgive the presumption of last  
“ night; by all the raptures which fol-  
“ lowed that dear, that never to be for-  
“ gotten condescension, and by that in-  
“ exhaustible store of pity in your breast,  
“ I beseech, I conjure you, to spare my  
“ soul the horror of beholding your first  
“ agonies. And, oh! before you read  
“ it, reflect on your own charms, weigh  
“ well the unrestrainable desires that  
“ heaven of beauty must inspire, and  
“ learn to pity the effects.”

A look and motion in which despair was visibly imprinted, accompanied these last expressions, which he had no sooner finished, than he went out of the room, leaving me at liberty to put an end to a suspense, which was little less terrible than the certainty, which I immediately found in these lines.

To

To the ever dear, but most wronged,  
ISMENIA.

“ I F to love you with an unceasing  
 “ fondness; to have the passion I had  
 “ for you heightened by enjoyment; to  
 “ resolve, in spite of fame or fortune,  
 “ to live and die intirely yours, be to  
 “ have undone you, I am the most guilty  
 “ wretch that breathes. But if you have  
 “ love enough to enable you to pardon  
 “ my enforced crime, and be mine in  
 “ the only way fate leaves it in my  
 “ power to make you so, the world  
 “ may, perhaps, blame us, but depend  
 “ on it, that the passion which occa-  
 “ sions it, will not fail to bless our con-  
 “ duct, and in each other give us all we  
 “ wish. I was, alas! the husband of  
 “ another before I saw your charms,  
 “ and, what I fear most will shock your  
 “ gentle soul, it is no other than your  
 “ aunt I had the misfortune to make  
 “ choice of. Ignorant of the power of  
 “ love, and, indeed, imagining the sto-  
 “ ries I heard of it, no more than the  
 “ chimeras of a romantic brain, I placed  
 “ my

“ my sole felicity in wealth and grandeur. Ah! how dear has my conviction cost, and how severely cruel has the god asserted his omnipotence! Divine Ismenia! from the first moment I beheld you, I became your slave, nor can I even wish to adore you less, so glorious seems my passion, that ruin, for your sake, is to be preferred to greatness with any other woman. Let us then go hence. Let us depart together. My care shall find a place where we may live and love without danger of interruption: it is the only way, not only to be happy, but also to shun a thousand evils which must attend our staying here. Your aunt designs shortly to declare her marriage, and can I live with you, as her husband, without discovering a more than uncle’s fondness? Or can you treat me with that indifference, or cold civility, which would be expected from you to such a relative? No, the struggling passion of my soul would be every moment bursting at my eyes, and trembling in my voice: and as  
“ what

“ what has past between us must occa-  
 “ sion in you the extreme either of love  
 “ or hate, it is not in nature for you to  
 “ conceal those strong emotions which,  
 “ to see me in so shocking a circum-  
 “ stance, must perpetually agitate your  
 “ breast. All, all would be exposed to  
 “ the penetrating eyes of your aunt, and,  
 “ by her rage and jealousy, to the whole  
 “ world. Oh! consider if it be possi-  
 “ ble, calmly on what is, and what may  
 “ be, and duly weigh the arguments  
 “ which my reason, as well as my love,  
 “ presents you with: remember that a  
 “ lasting happiness, or misery and dis-  
 “ grace, waits on your result, and you  
 “ will then, I am sure, vanquish what-  
 “ ever scruples may arise to oppose what  
 “ I desire for the common felicity of  
 “ us both.”

Thus ended the fatal scroll, pursued  
 Ismenia, and sure, if there be a horror  
 greater than is possible to conceive with-  
 out feeling it, I then endured it. I would  
 have gladly, methought, have exchange-  
 d my present state, for any other kind  
 of wretchedness whatever. I could not  
 imagine

imagine that there was a circumstance on earth could equal the misery of mine. What curses did I not, in the first moments of my indignation, vent on the perfidious betrayer of my virtue! How did I vow to take the severest revenge on him that woman's malice could invent! I flew to my chamber, there to give a loose to the over-boiling passions of my tempestuous soul; but, as the cruel triumpher of my honour was but too well assured the transports of my rage abated, and the seducer, Love, resumed his empire, I reflected, that what was done was past recall, and that, being lost to all possibility of being another's, it was not only, according to his argument, the most prudent, but also the most consistent with my inclination, to run all fortunes with him; and this last article, joined to the apprehension, how terrible it would be to see the man whom I so dearly loved, and to whom I had yielded the most tender condescensions, in the embraces of my aunt, at length won me to become the partner of his guilt. To reflect, however, on the infamy to which I was about to reduce myself, the  
certainty

certainty of being made an alien to my father's house, deprived of all the joys of kindred, and of friends; and, above all, the ingratitude I was guilty of to her whose tender care had cherished me from my infancy, and who had been more than a parent to me; these considerations, I say, overwhelmed my soul with a sorrow which no words can represent, and the relief of tears being at that time denied me, the violence of my agonies threw me into a swoon, in which, heaven knows how long I lay, for I recovered not, till one of the servants happening to come into the room, applied proper things to bring me to myself. Thought was too painful to be indulged, and as soon as I returned to sense, I left my chamber, resolving, that since the crime I was about to act, was not to be avoided, I would reflect no more on it.

I found the fatal author of my guilt and my disquiets, in the dining room, waiting my return. At sight of him, scarce could I support myself from falling a second time into that condition from which I had so lately been recovered:



ed: "Oh! what have you done!" cried I: "to what an extravagance of  
"wretchedness have you reduced a maid  
"who loved you!" I had not the power of speaking more, nor, indeed, did he give me the opportunity, at that time; for observing by the accent of my voice, that he had only grief to combat with, he had recourse to all the subtle insinuations of his sex, to dissipate that passion. What shall I say?—I loved to madness.—Was young, and altogether unexperienced in the deceit of man, and dreaded nothing so much as the reproaches of my aunt, should what I had yielded to be discovered. I therefore consented to his proposals of flying with him, and, we having consulted on every thing which might contribute to our doing so with safety, he took his leave to order things accordingly.

The same night was agreed on for my escape, and the business I had in packing up my jewels, and what cloaths I could conveniently carry with me, employed me till that time, and prevented me from thinking too deeply on what I  
was

was about to do. When it grew towards evening, I put on my veil, and, having concealed the things I had with me, so as not to be perceived, I went out, with a pretence of walking in a fine field near our house, out of which opened a gate into the road. I took only one servant with me, who I presently sent back for my handkerchief, which, I told her, I had left in my chamber. She was no sooner out of sight, than I made haste to the gate, where my undoer waited to receive me. Having mounted me behind him, he clapped spurs to his horse, and, in a short time, we arrived at a little village about seven leagues distant from the place I had left, where we lay that night, and early the next morning pursued our journey to a little house, where lived a person entirely dependant on him. It was there we were to settle, and, for some days, the unabated tenderness with which he treated me, made me not repent my elopement. But, alas! how soon was the gay scene shifted, to one all horror and desolation! The first change I perceived in him, was a gloomy melancholy, which he roused not from,  
but

but with a restless impatience; by degrees he grew more peevish, took occasion to contradict every thing I said or did, though ever so reasonable, and, at last, became so churlish and morose, that I found it an impossibility to please him. When at any time I complained of his behaviour, he flung away without giving me any reply, leaving me drowned in a flood of unpitied tears, and returned not, sometimes, in two or three days together; and when he did, was far from making the least excuse for his absence. Mild as I am by nature, I could not support such usage without reproaches, which had no other effect, than my softness had before, till provoked one day to utter some words more resentful than ordinary, though not the thousandth part of what his perfidy deserved, he answered me in these terms: "It is time, *Is-  
menia*," said he, "for us to part,  
"since we grow such ill company to-  
"gether; and, to speak the truth, I have  
"often been about to talk to you on  
"that score, but the violence of your  
"passion restrained me. In fine, what-  
"ever romantic notions I might have  
in

“ in my head, when first we came to-  
 “ gether, I could not, for any long time,  
 “ think of forsaking the woman to  
 “ whom, by my marriage vow, I am  
 “ bound. I was not many days before  
 “ I visited her, and, having formed a  
 “ plausible story for my absence, took  
 “ from her all suspicion that I was  
 “ the person who induced you to  
 “ quit her house. Our marriage is  
 “ this week to be made publick, and  
 “ there is now an absolute necessity for  
 “ my living entirely with her. She  
 “ greatly laments the loss of you, has  
 “ spared no expence nor pains in search  
 “ of you, and, I am certain, will re-  
 “ ceive you with her former tenderness.  
 “ I would not, therefore, have you de-  
 “ lay your return. It is easy for you  
 “ to invent some little reason for your  
 “ having left her house. The love she  
 “ has for you, will easily prevail on  
 “ her to believe and forgive; and you  
 “ may depend on finding in me all  
 “ that you could expect from an uncle,  
 “ and a friend.”

As I do not believe that the like cir-  
 cumstance ever happened, so I cannot  
 think

think it possible for any one to guess the wild distraction of my mind at hearing words like these. Vain would it be for me to go about to represent any part of my behaviour a moment after, as I know not either what I said or did: but this I remember, that for a time I was agitated with ten thousand fiends. His dagger happening to lie on a table near me, I attempted to plunge it into his breast, and, being prevented, would afterwards have applied it to my own, had he not, with a cool calmness, which increased my rage, deprived me of the means.

But how certain is that maxim, "That  
" nothing violent is of long continu-  
" ance!" My spirits, too weak to en-  
dure those vehement sallies of passion,  
soon flagged, and tears, the last relief  
of disappointed woman, flowing in great  
abundance from my eyes, quenched the  
late blazing flames of indignation. At  
sight of this, he grew somewhat less care-  
less than he had been, endeavoured to  
console me by a feigned compassion, and  
told me, " That he still could wish there  
" were

“ were a possibility of living always  
“ with me; but that if I would consider,  
“ that all laws, both human and divine,  
“ forbid the breach of matrimonial vows,  
“ he was certain my conscience, and  
“ my virtue, would not suffer me to  
“ persuade him to it.” Oh! how stab-  
bing must it be to hear a sermon of re-  
pentance from the man, by whose infat-  
uations we were first seduced to sin, I  
leave yourself to judge; yet had I not  
the power to answer him any otherwise  
than with sighs, and he still went on in  
the same manner, earnestly recommend-  
ing it to me to think no more of him as  
a lover, and to return with all the haste  
I could to my aunt. With much ado,  
I at last gathered courage enough to as-  
sure him, “ I would do my best to per-  
“ form the first part of his injunction,  
“ and that I believed I should not find it  
“ very difficult; for the love I had borne  
“ him, by the knowledge of his unwor-  
“ thiness, was beginning to convert it-  
“ self into an adequate hate; but for the  
“ latter part, never would I consent to  
“ see a person whose tenderness I had  
“ been prevailed upon so ungratefully to  
“ requite,



“requite, and that I would rather chuse  
“to wander round the world in search  
“of bread, than live under the roof with  
“two people, one of which I had so  
“greatly injured, the other me.” He  
would then have endeavoured to persuade  
me to go to my father; but all he could  
say, either on that, or the other head,  
was ineffectual, and I remained fixed in  
my determination, never to appear in  
the world again as myself.

Some little money, which I could not  
avoid being obliged to him for, bore the  
expences of my journey to Sienna, where,  
madam, I was so fortunate to be received  
into your service, a blessing which makes  
me hope I am not quite abandoned by  
my good angel, and that the offence I  
have done to Heaven, in so criminal a  
correspondence with the husband of my  
aunt, may be, in time, forgiven, and I  
meet, in another world, that repose  
which is denied me in this.

Thus ended Ismenia her melancholy  
narrative, which had in it, indeed, so  
great a mixture of guilt and misery, that  
I Signiora

Signiora Clementina could find very little to say which might afford her any consolation: but having asked her, "If she  
" yet entertained any tender sentiments  
" for that inhuman betrayer," and being assured by her, "That she did not;  
" but, on the contrary, never thought  
" on him but with the utmost detestation  
" and abhorrence," she heartily congratulated her on the justice and strength of that resolution.

They entertained themselves a long time with discoursing on the power of love, and the various effects that passion had produced; and Ismenia repeating some of those ardencies with which she had been treated by her uncle, in the beginning of their amour, made Clementina reflect how possible it was, that her now passionately tender Glencairn might one day also decline, and grow indifferent and false, as well as others. This consideration made her become extremely pensive, which the other perceiving, endeavoured, by all the means she was capable of, to divert her. Among the many agreeable qualifications that young beauty

*History of an Italian Lady.* 171

beauty was mistress of, she had a most excellent voice, which being improved by the advantage of having been taught by the best masters, rendered her notes extremely enchanting to the ear. Her songs had often afforded much pleasure to Clementina, and she, therefore, chose that way to alleviate a sadness, which the relation of her history had occasioned. While she was singing, the baron entered the room; on which she broke off, and was about to retire, but he would not suffer her; and, in obliging her to stay and finish her song, and the pleasure he expressed to take in hearing her, gave Clementina some disquiets, to which before she had been a stranger; she had not opportunity, however, to give any vent to these first pangs of jealousy, the person at whose house they lodged coming to let them know, there were officers of justice, who demanded the presence of them both before the judge. The summons seemed so strange, neither of them being conscious of any action which should draw on them the displeasure of the government, that for some time they could not believe themselves the persons

I 2                      meant;

meant; nor had, probably, been at last convinced, if the officers, impatient at their delay, had not come into the room, and produced their orders for apprehending them.

There was no remedy, they were obliged to obey. Being brought to the presence of the judge, he demanded the names of both, and in what places born? To which they could not avoid answering with sincerity, having not concealed themselves in that city, as believing themselves there secure from any search which should be made after them. But Glencairn, naturally impatient, could not endure these interrogatories without desiring to be told the reason of them, and on what account he had been summoned: on which appeared an old gentleman, whom Clementina immediately knew to be her father, the marquis of Morella, and, after having given a great shriek, fell fainting in the baron's arms; who, surprised as he was beyond measure, spread them open to receive her, and made use of his utmost efforts to  
recover

recover her, though, for a long time, all he could do was fruitless.

But, because my readers will, doubtless, be surprized by what means the marquis came there, I must inform them of some transactions which passed in Rome since the departure of Clementina.

The grief which seized the soul of the marquis, at finding so ill an effect of his care, in the behaviour of a darling and only child, rendered him so negligent in his affairs, that, for want of his usual and due inspection, he was cheated by his steward of a great quantity of money, who, fearing to be detected, fled from Rome; but some person, whom he had entrusted with the secret, for a reward betrayed it to his master, and that, also, he was gone to Sienna. So great an infidelity in a man whom he had depended on, a little roused the marquis from that lethargy of thought he had been in, and, resolving on revenge, came in person to Sienna, and caused him to be apprehended. He had all imaginable justice done him, and the

unfaithful servant was made a publick example. But while this affair was prosecuting, one of the retinue of the marquis happened to see Clementina at a window, and immediately informed his master. Enquiry being made, and all imaginable confirmations assuring him of the truth, he obtained an order against that disobedient daughter and her seducer.

The first use she made of her return of sense and speech, was to throw herself at the feet of her offended father, and entreat his mercy on herself and husband; for so she protested to him the baron was. Which words informing him who it was that had caused this disturbance in her, he also fell on his knees, entreating the marquis to forgive, what only the most violent and tender passion could have made either of them guilty of. But that justly incensed nobleman, who had suffered so much through the stubbornness of a daughter, in whom he had once placed his only comfort, and very well knew, that this return to duty was no more than enforced, was not to  
be



he so easily prevailed on to resume his paternal tenderness, as Clementina flattered herself he would : all the submissive endeavours which she made, backed by the wit and rhetorick of her pretended husband, were of no effect. He vowed to prosecute them both with an unforgiving vengeance : as for her, he protested she should expiate her crime by an eternal celibacy, in that order of devotees which is the most strict and difficult to go through of any, that of the Poor-Clares ; and as for the baron, to whom he gave no other name than that of ravisher, he would fain have proved him guilty of sacrilege, in robbing the convent of a maid designed to be dedicated to the altar ; but this being impracticable, because she had not yet taken the veil, he was obliged to content himself with only bringing a charge against him for profaning, and causing his servants to profane, the sacred vestments of the priesthood, and imposing on the abbess and holy sisters, with a pretended miracle. The judge, who happened to be a man of singular good nature, truly pitied the distress of these young lovers, as having

himself experienced to what degrees that passion will influence the mind, made use of all the tender arguments reason or remembrance could furnish him with, to dissuade the marquis from so rigorous a resolution; but that inexorable father, from whom Clementina had drawn that obstinacy and self-will, which was the occasion of her present misfortunes, was not to be moved by any considerations, and the judge, after a long debate, was obliged to give up the determination of this affair to the secular power.

Clementina was sent to the monastery of St. Clare, and the baron to the convent of St. Francis, there to wait their sentence, which the marquis vowed to urge with the utmost severity.

The lovers, thus separated, had no consolation but in writing to each other, which they did daily, by the means of Imenia, who never missed visiting both at the grates of their prisons every morning. But now came on that fatal stroke, to which all Clementina had yet found, was but a gentle soothing.

It

It may easily be supposed, by any who have heard that the baron quitted Signiora Jacinta for Miramene, and afterwards that lady, even when unenjoyed, for Clementina, that he was not free from the natural inconstancy of his sex: by the rest of his character, it is rather to be wondered at, that he had not changed, before now, a fourth time, than that he did so now, when not only a long and uninterrupted possession might be reasonably imagined to have dulled his ardors, but also the perplexities which he was involved in, on the account of his last amour, gave him a tolerable excuse for becoming weary of it. The only motive one could think would have kept him true to her, was, that in the present exigence and danger of his affairs, he should have no leisure to entertain any new desires; yet so it was, his heart, ever amorous, admitted no pause in the tender passion, and that for Clementina being greatly abated, by the reasons already mentioned, he had now room for new desires.

The little jealousies which inflamed the mind of Clementina, when he so warmly praised Ismenia's fine voice, were not groundless; he had then a sort of an inclination rising for that young beauty, and the visits she now made him, very much increased his desires. He began heartily to wish that he were rid of Clementina, and at liberty to pursue his amour with the other. Being naturally bold, and encouraged by his former successes, he made no difficulty, one day, of letting her know how much she triumphed over the person she served, and scrupled not to give her the most solemn assurances, that he would marry her, if once released from his confinement. He had too many charms to plead any long time in vain, with a woman of Ismenia's constitution; and whether she gave credit or not to the promise he made her of becoming her husband, yet, looking on herself as already lost to reputation, and the favour of her friends, she was willing once more to experience the fidelity of mankind, and run a second risque for the pleasures  
she

she expected in a near conversation with a person so amiable.

Decorum, however, for some time, made her repulse his addresses, but it was so faintly, that the enamoured baron easily perceived he wanted but an opportunity to bring her to an entire compliance; and this consideration, more than any other, made him impatient that there was no way to be found for him to escape. He was complaining of it one day to Ismenia, in terms the most moving and passionate that could be, and his disquiets, joined with her own, prompted her invention to contrive a stratagem, which one would not imagine one so young, and, seemingly, artless, should ever have thought on.

She went to the house where the marquis was lodged, and being brought to his presence, accosted him in this manner: "As my business with you, Signor, is all that can excuse this liberty, so I doubt not, but when you have heard it, you will rather think I deserve your thanks than blame." So

odd a salutation from a stranger; and a person of her sex, gave the marquis some surprize; but having desired her to explain herself, she went on in this manner: " Permit me, Signor," said she, " to inform you, that I am perfectly acquainted with the grief which you labour under on the account of Signiora Clementina; and as I believe nothing could more severely touch you, than her being married to a person of the baron's country and religion, I come to let you know, he is not her husband; they are united by no other bonds than those of youthful passion, which, if once separated, I question not but would easily break off, and she be brought to follow the dictates of her duty and her interest, in disposing of herself to whom you shall direct. How much better were it, therefore, in my opinion, to make no farther noise of this affair, which, however determined, can redound only to the dishonour of your family? Whereas, if you privately give the baron his liberty, on condition he quits Italy for ever, you may take

" Cle-



“ Clementina home, under pretence,  
“ that you have since found the story of  
“ her escaping from the monastery was  
“ no more than an aspersiō; that she  
“ has been ever since with a relation;  
“ in fine, it is easy to solve up the mat-  
“ ter so as to preserve her reputation.”  
“ But how are you certain,” hastily in-  
terrupted the marquis, “ that she is not  
“ married?” “ Being intimately known  
“ to them, and an eye-witness of their  
“ behaviour,” replied she, “ I had many  
“ reasons to believe it, but have been  
“ since confirmed, by the confession of  
“ both.”

The marquis stood a considerable time  
musing before he answered, and when  
he did, it was only to tell her, “ That  
“ he thought himself obliged for the  
“ information she had given him,  
“ and that he would consider farther,  
“ before he resolved on what he would  
“ do.” On which she took her leave,  
very well satisfied in her mind with what  
she had done, which could be no way of  
prejudice to her, if she failed in the ex-  
ecution of what she attempted; but if  
crowned

crowned with success, gave her no less than the ultimate of her desires in the baron's liberty, and the happiness she proposed in being the partner of his flight.

She went immediately to the convent, and, having acquainted the baron with her proceedings, put that gentleman into the utmost consternation at the violence of women's passions, and how little they regarded any thing in competition with the gratification of their desires. He also reflected how justly fate had decreed to punish Clementina with a crime of the same kind she had herself been guilty of. The infidelity which she had practised on Miramene, was now retorted by a person in whom she had confided, as that unhappy lady had done in her: and it is certain that these considerations inspired him with notions no way to the advantage of the sex in general.

It is not to be supposed, however, that he testified to Ismenia any part of what his sentiments were on this head. On the contrary,

contrary, he extolled her wit and ingenuity, and made a thousand fine encomiums on the passion which had inspired her with so excellent a contrivance; and as he was at all times the most complaisant man on earth, and had a softness in his manner of addresses, as enchanting as it was peculiar, so now, being, in reality, highly charmed with a scheme which gave him a great prospect of regaining his liberty, and, at the same time, the enjoyment of the woman he at present languished for, he appeared even to excel himself, and behaved in so ravishingly tender a manner, that if before Ismenia loved, she now adored; and with the most satisfied affection, because her own vanity, flattered by his assurances, entirely possessed her with the belief, that she had gained, at least, an equal influence over him. In this position of mind let us leave her, and return to the marquis.

That anxious father, having deliberately weighed the information which had been given him by Ismenia, found her advice so much to the advantage of his peace,

peace, that he resolved to prosecute it; though, by so doing, he was entirely frustrated of taking his vowed revenge on Glencairn. The more he reflected, that there was a possibility of regaining his daughter's reputation, and the hope of matching her according to her birth and fortune, the more his former tenderness returned, and he was convinced, that he hated not her undoer so much as he still loved her.

But not being certain how far he might depend on the truth of what had been told him, he thought it expedient he should assure himself before he gave the baron his liberty; it sometimes entering his head, that Ismenia had been sent by him with that story, as a feint to procure his freedom, to the end he might be the better able to contrive that of Clementina; and that, that disobedient daughter had also assisted in this attempt to impose on him, which, if answered with success, would give them leave to laugh, hereafter, at his credulity and disappointment. He went, therefore, to the convent where Glencairn was secured, and,

and, after some previous discourse, befitting the hate and indignation which the sight of him inspired, demanded of him, "If he were really the husband of Clementina, or not?" To which he answered, "That if he were not, it would ill become him to disown a lady who had passed in the eyes of every body for his wife." "This is an evasion," replied the marquis, "becoming the undoer of a virgin's honour; but as I am her father, and have it in my power, either to sacrifice you to my just resentment, or to pardon, what is past, in case you deal with me with sincerity; methinks your own welfare should oblige you to speak truth. Answer me then, without reserve or equivocation, has ever the sacred ceremony past between you? To prevail on you to do so, I here swear by every thing we adore above, or fear below, to set you free from this confinement, and to seek no revenge for what you have done, unless you urge my rage a second time, by seducing or encouraging the disobedience of my child."

"Think

“ Think not, Signor,” said the baron, after a short pause, “ that it is through  
 “ any fears of what may arrive to myself, but the hope, that by knowing  
 “ your daughter has not bound herself  
 “ in an indissoluble bond to a man you  
 “ disapprove, that I confess to you, I  
 “ am not married, nor have any power  
 “ over that lady, but what her love  
 “ has given me.” “ If this be true,” resumed the marquis, “ depend on liberty; but if false, a heavy augmentation of punishment.” He spoke no more, nor, indeed, was he capable of it, so strongly did the struggling passions combat in him.

From the baron he went directly to Clementina, with whom he acted in a quite different manner to what he had done with her lover. He accosted her with the utmost tenderness, and by all his looks as well as words, she had not the least reason to imagine she was not fully restored to all that affection her late conduct had made her lose. “ You thought  
 “ it,” said he, “ the greatest of your  
 “ misfortunes to meet a father here, and  
 “ so,



“ so, indeed, it would have proved,  
“ had I retained any part of that indig-  
“ nation with which I first beheld you :  
“ but soon that passion fled, and all the  
“ father pleaded in my soul, and got  
“ the better of my reason. I would  
“ have matched you, Clementina, ac-  
“ cording to your birth ; but since you  
“ prefer love to grandeur, be happy in  
“ your wishes : I can no longer oppose  
“ them.” Here he ceased, expecting  
her reply ; but joy had so far transported  
her at this unhopèd condescension, that,  
for a time, it rendered her incapable of  
speech, though, what was wanting in  
words, actions abundantly made up.  
She cast herself at his feet, embraced  
his knees with extasies which are  
not to be represented ; and, when she  
could, blessed his forgiving goodness, in  
terms which would have made any heart,  
but his, in reality, relent, and consent  
to have given her that happiness, which  
he did but in imagination. But he re-  
mained fixed in his resolution, and hav-  
ing allowed some time to the transports  
of her joy, “ But are you certain,” said  
he, “ that Glencairn, by his truth and  
constant

“ constant persevering in his affection.  
 “ to you, deserves this profusion of  
 “ love?” To which she replied, “ That  
 “ the baron merited more love than she  
 “ could pay. That he was all sincerity,  
 “ all tenderness, and inimitable con-  
 “ fidence.” “ You are yet,” resumed  
 the artful father, “ but in the early days  
 “ of passion; men are fickle, it is in  
 “ our natures, and if the ceremony of  
 “ the church did not bind us to be just,  
 “ few are there of us that would content  
 “ ourselves always with one woman.  
 “ Tell me, therefore, I command thee,  
 “ the whole truth of what has passed  
 “ between you, that if you are not yet  
 “ married, I may be a witness of the  
 “ reparation of your honour, by seeing  
 “ it done with all those formalities  
 “ which the law ordains.” The consci-  
 ous fair could not restrain her blushes at  
 this demand, yet, far from imagining the  
 drift of his intention, durst not answer  
 with a falshity, nor would modesty per-  
 mit her presently to acknowledge, before  
 a parent, that she had yielded the rites  
 of marriage without the ceremony. Her  
 downcast looks, however, confirming  
 him.

him that it was as he could wish, he could the better persist in his dissembled tenderness, which, at last, brought her to confess all he desired to know. Having obtained this knowledge, he chose not to undeceive her opinion of his designs, partly because he thought it a little too cruel to plunge her at once from that extremity of joy he had raised her to, into an adequate depth of sorrow, and partly because he considered, that if she should know she had, by this confession, lost all hope of living with Glencairn, it might put her on some desperate attempt to make a second escape, where, by suffering her to continue in this deception, she would remain easy and quiet, expecting every hour when she should be called forth, in order to be for ever united to that dear man. He said little to her, after having given his promise, "That in a very short time she should be released from her confinement," but went back to the convent, where, having assured the fathers that they should gain no displeasure by releasing the baron, he took him with him to the judge advocate, of whom  
he

he got his discharge, as also a passport for leave to retire from Italy. When this was done, to rid himself of all fears of ever hearing more of him, he not only exacted from him an oath, never to return to those dominions, but also compelled him to let a servant of his own attend him to the confines. But this careful father was pretty well eased of his apprehensions, when, not leaving him till he saw him take horse, he observed he was accompanied by Ismenia, whose beauty he perceived would make him lose all memory of Clementina. This testimony of his falshood, gave him no small satisfaction, because he imagined, when reported to Clementina, it would greatly alleviate her grief for being deprived of the society of a lover so ungrateful, and unworthy of her regard.

It is possible that the baron, when departing in this manner from a lady who had loved him with that height of passion, could not avoid feeling some commiserating pangs; but they were easily overwhelmed in the enjoyment of the present object of his desires. When  
an

an entire yielding had created all imaginable intimacies between them, curiosity made him ask, "To whom he was indebted for the raptures he had received? As yet," said he, "I know nothing of Ismenia, but that she is a woman, and the loveliest of her sex; permit me, therefore, to partake the secret of your birth, and by what means fate put me in possession of your charms?"

To which demand she readily complying, related her whole history to him in the same manner she had done to Clementina, concealing her name till she came to the conclusion; "And then," added she, "to let you see that it was not altogether the instigations of my passion for you, violent as it is, but that justice had also some share in the seeming infidelity with which I treated Clementina; know, I have but revenged a wrong of the same kind she did my sister, and that I am of the same blood with Miramene, and the youngest daughter of the count de los Veronvile. It is given to you," pursued

sued she, “to triumph over more than  
 “one of that illustrious family; but re-  
 “member you owe a double share of  
 “affection to Ismenia, to repair the in-  
 “jury your inconstancy has done Mira-  
 “mene.”

Never was astonishment superior to that the baron felt at this discovery. He began now to be assured, that lovers vows were something more than words of course, and ought to bind; and resolved within himself to make no more, unless there appeared a possibility of keeping them. He liked Ismenia, it is true, but, as he intended not to pass his whole life with her, was not so lavish of his protestations that he would do so, as formerly he had been. He found the means, however, of satisfying her, without saying any thing which should hereafter give her a pretence to call him false and perjured: and, indeed, if women would consider of how little consequence, to bind a roving heart, those asseverations and imprecations, so frequently made use of, are, they would not oblige their lovers to the practice of them,



them, because it only compels the man, when he has a mind to break off, to expose either the real or imaginary faults of his mistress, that he may clear himself from those obligations his oaths would else lay him under.

Nothing happening of moment, as yet, to either the baron, or Himenia, we will leave them, for a while, to prosecute their journey; the despair of the unfortunate Clementina calling on us to consider and commiserate her case.

That deceived lady waited with the utmost impatience, though with an assured expectation, the hour of her being summoned by her father from that retirement; but several days passed over without hearing any thing from him. His fears, lest he a second time should lose her, not permitting him to let her remove, till he was certain the baron was at a considerable distance; but, as soon as he thought it time, he came to the monastery himself, and conducted her thence into his coach: amazed as she was, that she did not see her dear Glencairn with him, she presumed not to

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men-

mention him, not doubting but that they were soon to meet him, and fearing to lose the favour she had so lately regained. But when passed the gates of Sienna, and she perceived herself in the great road which led towards Aquapendente, in the way to Rome, what terrible imaginations took possession of her brain! how did she tremble with apprehensions! but as yet she could form no distinct idea of what. Unable to contain herself any longer, "Oh! whither do we go, my Lord?" said she; "Is Glencairn gone before us to Rome? Where are we to seek, where find him?" "Trouble not yourself about him," answered the marquis, "you will soon be with people, and in a place, which ought to be more dear to you than him, or any part that has been the scene of guilt or shame: but, as I have promised to forgive what is past, I will no more upbraid you; only remember, that on your future behaviour depends the return of my affection, and that, to be my daughter, you must, as much as is in your power to do, retrieve your reputation, by an entire forgetfulness of your seducer, and learn to know  
"your-

“yourself.” “I know myself already,  
“for a wretch so cursed, that Heaven  
“cannot make me more,” cried the  
distracted Clementina : “But oh ! in the  
“midst of cruelty, be yet kind enough  
“to inform me of the depth of my mis-  
“fortunes——Tell me, Sir, I conjure  
“you, what you have done with Glen-  
“cairn ? Is he alive ? or, has your in-  
“exorable revenge made a sacrifice of  
“his precious life ?—Yes, I am certain  
“it is so—The horrors that invade me  
“at that apprehension, are but too true  
“intelligencers—But think not I will  
“stay behind him ; no, we will be united  
“in the grave—there, there no cruel  
“father will have the power to part us.”  
The marquis then proceeded to relate to  
her, as much as he knew of the baron’s  
mind. He told her, “That the first  
“news he heard that she was not mar-  
“ried, was from a young woman called  
“Ismenia ; that she was the partner of  
“his journey, and that he had sworn  
“never more to return to Italy, or by  
“any means attempt renewing his con-  
“versation with her.” It could not pre-  
sently enter the belief of Clementina,  
that this was true, though told by her

father: but, when it did, it is difficult to say, whether rage or grief was most predominant over her soul. She wept and railed by turns, as the different passions agitated her: and this vicissitude of anguish threw her, at length, into such faintings, that the marquis was obliged to stop short of the place he intended to lie at, and put up, for that night, at a little house in the road.

The disorders of this unhappy lady were such, that the marquis ordered she should be put to bed immediately, hoping that, as the hurry of spirits she had been in must have extremely weakened her, she would soon fall asleep, and by that means grow more composed, especially after she had leisure to reflect, that her misfortune was unavoidable and irremediable, and therefore could but be made more heavy by retaining the remembrance of.

But in this, his penetration deceived him: Clementina was not so easily brought to desist from any thing she had once taken into her head; and though it is to be questioned, if all the love  
the

she had ever borne to the baron, exceeded that hatred the news of his infidelity had inspired her with, yet did she find this passion as little to be restrained as the other : as to have believed him true, would have fired her with the most amorous impatience to have flown into his arms; so did the knowledge of his falsehood, render her incapacity of revenge insupportable.—Gladly would she have lost her own life, to have taken that of her rival; nor could she think on the happiness that woman was in possession of, to her prejudice, without wishing herself more than mortal, though it were of the infernal kind, that she might have the power of disturbing the tranquility of this deceitful pair. Her despair transported her so far, that, in some moments, she was about, by violent means, to set free her soul, in hopes, after death, her ghost might haunt the dreams of those she so much hated; but the consideration that those beings act but by permission of that superior power by which they were created, checked her impious hands. As she was in these perturbed and confused meditations, she spied a suit of man's cloaths hanging up in

the room; she presently began to cast her eyes about, to see if there was not a possibility of escaping in them; and it seeming plausible to her that she might, she tried them on, and, finding they fitted her exactly, she being somewhat above the ordinary stature of her sex, cried out, in a kind of extacy, "Heaven  
" thou art merciful! This habit was left  
" here by the decrees of fate, to point  
" the way which I may attain the ac-  
" complishment of my just revenge.—  
" Yes, the villain Glencairn, and the  
" perfidious partner of his flight, shall  
" find Clementina has a soul not formed  
" of dull enduring stuff: though lost to  
" love, I yet will triumph in the joys of  
" vengeance. I will not content my-  
" self with fruitless curses. Words would  
" but wrong my rage! It is deeds shall  
" speak. Then, if I die, I die con-  
" tented, to leave behind me a monu-  
" ment of justice, and teach my feeble  
" sex, what woman, when provoked as  
" I am, dare do to assert her right."  
These kind of raging meditations, gave some small ease to the tortures of despairing love. In the resolves of vengeance, the pangs of grief were dissipated;



pated; and, fully bent to prosecute what she had taken in her head, she impatiently waited the approach of morn, not suffering the least slumber to take possession of her senses.

As soon as she saw the reddening east gleam with Aurora's beams, she equipped herself in the habiliments already mentioned; they became her so well, that, looking in the glass, the idea of Glencairn had lost half its charms, and she was in some danger of (Narcissus like) falling in love with her own resemblance. She was not, however, so much taken up with it, that she forgot her project; the first noise she heard in the house, that discovered any of the family were stirring, she went down stairs, and, passing easily on those who knew her not, for one of the retinue of the marquis, called immediately for one of his horses, saying, "That nobleman had commanded him back to Sienna, to bring something, which through carelessness had been left behind." Nobody in the least suspecting the counterfeit servant for any other than he appeared, every thing was done according to his will, and long before the marquis had

K 4

any

any thought of leaving his bed, his unhappy daughter was many miles from the inn.

I will not detain my readers attention with a long detail of the exclamations that perplexed father made, when he found all the precaution he had taken was unavailing; nor the surprize the people of the house were in at her strange escape: it shall suffice to say, "There were all possible measures taken for the recovering her; messengers were dispatched to all parts of the country round about; an exact description given of her person and shape, and great rewards offered to any one who should bring news of her;" but so industrious and ingenious was this fair wanderer, in contriving and bringing about her own misfortunes, that every means made use of for finding her, proved ineffectual.

Having some jewels about her of a considerable value, the first step she made, was to dispose of some of them, the next, to change her habit, by the description of which, she imagined she might

might be easily known: but, because of the danger to which those of her sex are exposed when they travel alone, she thought it best still to appear as a man; she therefore bought a suit of cloaths much richer, and vastly different in their colour, from those in which she left the inn; and for fear also, that the horse might happen to be known, she sold him, and purchased another; and crossing the country by roads which she herself knew not which way they tended, and avoiding all great towns, cities, or inns of any note, and passing, at the places she baited at, sometimes for one person, and sometimes for another, dodged her pursuers so as not to be tracked by any mark or description whatever.

She made not the least enquiry after her perfidious fugitive, till she was out of the pope's dominions, but was then informed, that such persons as she described, had passed that way, and went thence towards Florence, with a design, as they said, to go to Leghorn; being also told, that they were not many days journey before her, and that they travelled at an easy rate, she despaired not of overtaking

them; and her rage gathering more force, as she perceived that what her father had said to her concerning the falshood of Glencairn, was undoubted verity, she resolved the first view she got of this ungrateful pair, should be fatal to one or both of them; and to that end, provided herself with a case of pistols, which she soon learned how to make use of, by practising every day, taking aim at a bird, a tree, a stone, or any thing that presented itself to her, when the road being free from passengers, she had an opportunity of trying her skill without being observed.

Inexpressible were the fatigues and dangers to which this unhappy lady suffered herself to be exposed in the prosecution of her ungovernable passions; yet did the hope of gratifying them, render her capable of enduring, what one would not imagine it was in the power of a person so delicate and tender to do. The horror she was in sometimes of meeting with robbers, which very much infest those roads, made her frequently glad to associate herself with company little besitting her sex and quality, and,  
rather

rather than part with them, content herself with food and lodging, such as at another time would have made her sick even to have thought on. Nothing happening to her, however, in particular, which may be any way diverting to my readers, I shall pass over the first weeks of her progress in silence, and leave it to imagination to conceive what it was she sustained, till she arrived at a small village in her journey, where she met with an adventure, which convinced her she was not the only unhappy of her sex, and that it was no new thing for a man to be perfidious and ungrateful.

As she was in bed, her perplexed cogitations not suffering her to sleep, in spite of the fatigues of the day, she heard the murmurings of a voice, which seemed in deep complaining, and frequently interrupted with sighs; it seemed one of her own sex, which exciting her curiosity, she raised herself on her pillow in order to observe more easily, and presently heard distinctly these words! "Inhuman villain! Canst thou pretend to honour, yet be guilty of an action the meanest born would blush at?"

K 6

"No,

“ No, no, renounce thy name and fa-  
 mily: hadst thou one drop of noble  
 blood, it would be impossible for thee  
 so far to degenerate. Thou couldst  
 not use me thus.” Here overflowing  
 grief forced an interval of silence; but  
 our impatient listner, believing it would  
 not be of long continuance, still kept in  
 the same position, and heard her renew  
 her reproaches in this manner. “ Did  
 you not hate me,” resumed the voice,  
 even more than ever you seemed to  
 love, you would not wish me to pro-  
 voke the rage of an offended husband,  
 by bringing to his sight a wretch  
 who so greatly injured him. His  
 wounded fame; his abused tenderness  
 demand my death; nor will a less  
 atonement expiate my fault, or re-  
 trieve his honour, by me unhappy  
 woman wronged. O, therefore, if I  
 have no longer charms to hold your  
 fickle heart, let compassion at least  
 supply the place of love; convey me  
 to some convent, there let me linger  
 out the remainder of my wretched  
 days in penitence and prayer, if it be  
 possible for me to do ought but curse  
 the author of my ruin.”

At



At these words, a second and more rough voice interrupted the other, and, with an accent which gave Clementina an idea of the disdain with which it was full of, uttered these words. “ You are  
“ always in extremes; awhile ago you  
“ desired death rather than a separation  
“ from me; now there is nothing you  
“ seem to fear so much; but I dare venture to assure you, that your apprehensions of your husband’s rage are  
“ groundless. His dotage will secure your  
“ life; nor can he, when he maturely  
“ weighs the difference between you,  
“ judge so severely of what you call  
“ your fault: It cannot be; it is contrary to nature, for a person of your age  
“ to be constant to one of his; he could  
“ not hope it when he married; nor can  
“ you live up to those rules enjoined in  
“ a monastic life. Think not of it,  
“ and believe I advise you as a friend,  
“ to return to a husband, whose anger  
“ for your elopement will be lost in  
“ the joy of seeing you again.”

The fair reproacher seemed at these words to be bereft of reason; she fell into agonies which deprived her of any coherent

coherent answer. She reviled, with all the pride of injured beauty, and sunk to the meanest and most abject entreaties, by turns. The sum of her discourse, however, let Clementina know, “ That  
“ since lost to all hope of recovering the  
“ affection of her ungrateful lover, or  
“ being received by her husband, in  
“ in any manner she could support with  
“ patience, a cloyster was the only as-  
“ylum to which she could have re-  
“ course; but being destitute of money,  
“ in order to her initiation, she desired  
“ that he would give her that mark that  
“ he did not wish her farther ruin.” To  
which he replied, “ That the allowance  
“ he had from his father, was too small  
“ to permit him to disburse such a sum  
“ as was necessary for what she required;  
“ that he had already gone too far, and  
“ and must retrench his expences in his  
“ journey home, or he should not have  
“ enough to support him without draw-  
“ ing bills, which by no means he would  
“ ever consent to do;” and, therefore,  
once more endeavoured to persuade her  
to return to her husband, and coolly told  
her, “ He was sorry the amour she was  
“ engaged in with him, should transport  
“ her

“ her so far, as to make her forget considerations of more moment, and bid her be wiser for the future :” concluding with a frank confession, “ That it was impossible for a man to continue his affections for any long time after enjoyment ; and that when a woman was once brought to resign her honour to the solicitations and artifices of her lover, the next thing she had to expect was to lose her lover also.”

What kind of replies were made to words like these, it is easier far to conceive than to relate ; so I shall only say, that neither the lady to whom they were addressed could utter, nor Clementina hear any thing that had the least connexion to it. Sighs, tears, swoonings, all the symptoms of wild distracted grief and desperation, befitted, indeed, the state of that unhappy creature ; and such were the only answers she could make.

Never had Clementina shewn so great a command over her temper as now she did, in restraining herself from calling out to that sordid and ungenerous man. She longed to take the part of the undone complainer, and assert the prerogative

gative of her sex; but the consideration of how dangerous consequence it might prove, and the little probability there was of moving a heart which seemed so inexorable as his, prevailed on her, tho' not without great difficulty, to keep silence. She could hear nothing more distinctly that night; for having waited a long time in vain, for some words which might let her know on what they had concluded, sleep at length got the better of curiosity, and overpowered her every sense. But early in the morning, being waked with a confused noise of shrieks, people running hastily up and down stairs, and cries for help, she started from her bed, and, getting her cloaths on with all possible expedition, opened her door, and called to know the occasion of this disturbance. To which one of the servants answered, "That a  
"gentleman and lady having come to  
"lie there the night before, who, at their  
"entrance passed for husband and wife,  
"the former had that morning departed  
"with his servants, and, as they supposed,  
"without the knowledge of the  
"lady; for he was no sooner gone,  
"than she called for a penknife, which,  
"being

“being brought, she attempted to stab  
“herself with it, but was happily pre-  
“vented.” She added also, “That this  
“poor desolate woman still continued in  
“such agonies, as drew tears from all  
“the house, and that nothing they were  
“able to say or do seemed to afford her  
“any consolation.” Clementina, hear-  
ing her misfortune was, by her despair,  
rendered so publick, thought it would  
not be judged improper to make one of  
the witnesses of this scene of misery. She  
went into the room, to which the noise  
easily directed her, and began, in her  
turn, to offer some condolences; but  
the unhappy stranger, at first, could not  
look that way, the sight of mankind was  
now grown hateful to her eyes; and Cle-  
mentina, appearing of that undoing sex,  
could not for a long time prevail to get  
one word from her; till happening to  
say, in the anguish of her own thoughts  
for the perfidy of Glencairn, which this  
accident brought fresh to her remem-  
brance, “That she thought the law ex-  
“tremely deficient in that point, foras-  
“much as it had provided no punishment  
“for the ingratitude of mankind;” the  
other raised her drooping head, and cast-  
ing

ing a side glance on the supposed cavalier, "Is it possible," said she, "that  
"there is one of that sex, who will not  
"defend an injustice of this kind? Is  
"there room for pity in the heart of any  
"thing that is called man?" "They  
"are not men, but monsters," resumed  
Clementina, "who could be void of it,  
"at a sight so full of woe, as what now  
"strikes my eyes. But, Signiora," continued she, "before I saw, I compassionated your sufferings, and had a  
"just abhorrence for the author of them.  
"The room I lay in, had so near a communication with your's, that little of  
"the discourse you had with your perfidious lover escaped my ears. Good  
"God, how near was I to flying myself  
"out of the chamber, and endeavouring,  
"at least, to compel him to be more  
"just. Nor had I any other emotions,  
"than what sure all men of common  
"honour must be possessed of, at an action which throws an odium on our  
"whole species. But pray," pursued she, after a short pause, "since the  
"chief part of your injuries I am acquainted with, permit me not to be a  
"stranger to the particulars, which  
"doubt-



*History of an Italian Lady.* 211

“doubtless enhance the guilt of that  
“consummate villain, and make the lit-  
“tle error you have fallen into, of be-  
“lieving him, more excusable.” “No-  
“thing,” said the lamenting lady, “can  
“be more just than that observation;  
“and, as my shame is known, it is but  
“fitting I should relate the artifices by  
“which I was seduced. If, therefore,  
“there are any here who have the same  
“curiosity, let them sit down, and listen  
“to a story, which may be a warning  
“to my unwary and believing sex.”  
The mistress of the house, and two  
young daughters being present, they pre-  
pared to give attention, and all sitting  
round the stranger, she began to perform  
the promise she had just now made, in  
these or the like terms.

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*The History of Signiora Vicino, and  
Monsieur Beaumart.*

**A**S it is no way material, said she,  
to my present misfortunes, what  
happened in my younger years, I shall  
pass

pass over in silence all the accidents of my childhood. It shall suffice to say, that I am the daughter of a noble Venetian; and had an education befitting my birth, and the tenderness of parents, who thought nothing too precious to bestow upon me; but the disposition of my father being too extensively generous for his fortune, he fell into very great misfortunes, and finding in his distresses, none of that compassion he had afforded, grief, for the ill usage of those he depended on as sure friends, soon took him from the world, leaving my mother the most afflicted widow breathing. The little beauty I am mistress of, however, in spite of my narrow fortune, made me be sought in marriage by several of good quality and estate; but the person my mother made choice of for me, was Signor Vicino, a gentleman of Montefiascone, but who happened to be at that time, on some occasion, at Venice. He has a very great fortune, is a person of undoubted worth and honour, but almost three times my age. I need not repeat how disagreeable this match was to me; every one knows the little probability there is of being charmed with wrinkles  
and

and grey hairs. Yet was I obliged to submit to it, and my mother, in putting this constraint on my inclination, thought she shewed the wisest part of love: In fine, I was married, and in a short time removed to Montefiascone, where, in spite of the disparity of our years, I lived with my husband for twelve months, in such a manner as could give no reason to condemn my conduct. One thing, indeed, greatly contributed to make me easy, though not happy with him, for though I had seen many men, who had it been my fortune to have married, I could have liked much better, yet had I never beheld one I languished for; and it may be taken for a certain maxim, "That to be able to know the extreme of loathing for any man, you must know the extreme of love for another." Oh! would to heaven I had never arrived to this pitch of learning! Still ignorant of the joys of one, I had been innocent of the guilt of the other. Dear has my fatal experience cost, and my punishment is at least equal with my crime. She could not for some moments proceed, so strongly did the different passions of tenderness and disdain now struggle

struggle in her divided breast. But overcoming, as well as she was able, her disorders, she prosecuted her discourse, after a short interval of tears, in this manner:

The kindness with which I found myself perpetually treated by Signor Vicino, resumed she, brought me at length to have a very great esteem for him, and who knows how far it might have ripened into a sort of love, had not an object presented itself to me, which in one moment taught me more of that passion, than all the long endearments of my husband could make me sensible of?

I was one day at chapel, when a young cavalier came and knelt pretty near me. I was immediately seized with emotions which I then knew not the meaning of, nor can yet describe; the confusion I was in made me let fall my book, which stooping to take up, perceiving he was about to do it for me, my veil in a hurry slipped on one side, and discovered part of my face: I made what haste I could to pull it close, but easily observed he had not lost the opportunity that accident  
had

had given him; he returned me my book, with a low bow, and such a look, as I shall never lose the idea of: all that was soft, beseeching, and tender, were comprized in it; and when obliged by decency, and the decorum of the place we were in, to turn his eyes a little the other way, it was with so deep a sigh, he seemed compelled to remove them, that you would have thought the strings of life had burst with the constraint. My soul, surprized with the prodigious charms which dwelt about him, was all collected in my eyes, and rivetted on his face: little had I the power to pray. I knelt in appearance to heaven, but in reality I worshipped this new idol. Divine service being over, I saw him go hastily out of the church, and the pangs, which, in this infancy of my affection, seized me at his leaving the place, are not to be described; but, oh, heaven! when coming to the door, I again beheld him, and received a salute from him, too tender ever to be forgot, a new and unaccountable, half-pleasing, half-painful agitation filled my bosom. I could not forbear looking behind me as I passed, and perceived he followed me, though at too great

great distance to be taken notice of by any, besides a person so interested as I already was. I will not go about to express what it was I felt after I came home, and had entirely lost all sight of him: I will only say, that his idea appeared so ravishing, so enchanting, that for that moment I could reflect on no other thing with pleasure. My husband was not only disagreeable but loathsome, and that night methought I could with less reluctance have gone into my grave than his embraces.

I went the next day to the same church, not without hope of seeing again the conqueror of my soul; nor was I deceived in my conjecture, he was there before me, and the moment I appeared, regarded me with an air which let me know the expectation of meeting me, was the inducement of his coming. Modesty or fear, however, preventing me from going too near the place he was in, it gave me an exquisite satisfaction to perceive his uneasiness; and, after having turned two or three times about with a visible discontent in his countenance, he went hastily towards the door, as if  
by



by chance he had seen some person he wanted to speak with, and after staying about a moment, returned, and came to my side. Just before prayers were ended, he put a paper into my hand, saying, softly, "Signiora, you dropt this yesterday, and I not knowing of how much consequence it might be, came on purpose to restore it." I had not time to examine whether it were as he said, or not, Te Deum being then singing, and the people all standing up, and the moment he had delivered it into my hand, he turned from me, and mingled with the crowd, so that it was impossible for me to have spoken to him without being taken notice of.

My servants waiting at the door till I came out, gave me no opportunity of examining what I had got, and when I came home, my husband, in a foolish fit of unwelcome and unseasonable fondness, would needs have me go with him to take the air at a little villa, we had about three leagues distant from Montefiascone. There was no avoiding the compliment he made me: I was obliged to go, but with how much regret, by any one

who has ever loved, and imagined she had about her the dear testimony of being loved again, may easily be conceived in this impertinent delay of gratifying her impatience. We past some hours there, and in the close of the evening returned: The minute we did so, I hastened to my chamber, and, after shutting the door, sat down with an infinity of satisfaction to peruse the paper: but, oh! heavens! how soon was my blissful expectation converted into all that was shocking and distracting, when, after having searched my pockets, I perceived it missing! I ran about the room like one possessed with some sudden frenzy. I examined again and again, but examined still in vain. What I sought was not to be found. Imagining I had left it in the gardens at the villa, I was for returning thither that night, late as it was, and without considering what excuse I should make for doing so, went into the room where Signor Vicino was, and told him, “There was an absolute necessity for my going back.” He seemed intent on reading a letter at my entrance, but as soon as I approached, he put it hastily into his pocket, and when he had heard

who

what I said, replied (with a tone and in a manner which, had I not been too deeply buried in my own cogitations, to regard any thing else, might have let me know the truth of my misfortune)

“ That sure I could not be in earnest !

“ Was this a time to go to the villa ?”

“ Yes,” resumed I, with an indiscreet impatience, “ any time is proper to

“ gratify one’s inclination. I have a

“ desire to pass the night there, and must

“ not be denied.” “ You speak in a

“ manner, madam,” said he, “ as if you

“ thought there was nothing you ought

“ to be denied : but give me leave to

“ say, that, if you expect to be complied

“ with, it is but reasonable you should

“ inform me what sudden occasion has

“ happened to call you to a place you

“ have but just now left, and indeed

“ seemed not very well pleased to go to

“ when it was my request.” “ I have

“ left something behind,” cried I, “ which

“ I fear will be lost :” “ What ?” de-

manded he. In the unprepared situation

of my thoughts, I could think of nothing

readily, but at last with some hesitation,

told him, “ I had dropped a diamond

“ bodkin out of my hair.” On which

he began to dissuade me from being uneasy at such a trifle, told me, "If I had done so, it would certainly be found by some of the servants, or if it were not, he would make me a present of another of ten times the value." But this not at all answering my end, and expressing still an impatience to be gone, he could no longer conceal the tempests which all the time I had been speaking, struggled in his mind. His eyes grew inflamed: his cheeks glowed with the dye of rage, and all his frame trembled with an inward passion, which at last broke out in these words. "I ought," said he, "to suffer you to seek the jewel you pretend to have lost, and bar my gates for ever against your return. But as I am convinced by the shameful testimony of your guilt, that you have not yet sinned against me but in idea, there is still a tenderness within which pleads in your behalf—unworthy and ungrateful as you are." Here he stopped; nor, indeed, was there need of more to make me see that what I had set my heart on, was in his possession, and whatever that paper contained, was betrayed.

Surprise,

Surprize, fear, and shame, kept me dumb, nor dared I lift my eyes from the ground, till he, perceiving the confusion, took the letter out of his pocket, and throwing it to me, "See there," said he, "the cause I have to condemn your  
" imprudence and want of regard for a  
" husband, who has, by his treatment  
" of you, merited all the love you have  
" to give."

Not all the disorders I was involved in could hinder me from taking up this fatal mandate, and reading it with an eagerness, which was but too obvious to my offended husband. The lines it contained are perfectly registered in my mind, nor shall I lose one syllable in the repetition.

To the most adorable of her Sex, the  
enchanting Signiora Vicino.

" IF love were a voluntary passion,  
" how easily could I answer all the  
" objections might be made against  
" mine, for an object so excellent?  
" Heaven, when it created a form like  
L 3 " yours,

“ yours, designed it for universal wor-  
“ ship; and it is rather the virtue, than  
“ the vice of your adorers, to have souls  
“ capable of distinguishing such per-  
“ fection. But as the power of that  
“ Deity, who is now the inspirer of my  
“ heart and pen, is allowed to be ir-  
“ resistible; of what force are the bars  
“ placed between us, to shield me from  
“ your charms? The forms of law, and  
“ of religion, appear too mean impedi-  
“ ments, and I am above all apprehen-  
“ sions, but of your disdain. I trem-  
“ ble to reflect how little I merit, and  
“ how much I languish for you. I die  
“ to think there may be a possibility for  
“ you to love the man to whom fate has  
“ disposed you, or that you may be so  
“ far prejudiced by that vulgar error,  
“ to believe it your duty to do so.—  
“ Yet if I may trust the eyes, those, for  
“ the most part, true interpreters of the  
“ heart, I must hope there is a stock of  
“ mercy, in that divine storehouse of all  
“ perfections sufficient to enable you to  
“ forgive what you can never look in  
“ your glass without knowing to be  
“ unavoidable. You saw, I am certain,  
“ the



“ the confusion of my soul, when yester-  
“ day I first beheld your lovely face ;  
“ and cannot be ignorant how deeply  
“ I must be influenced by the sight  
“ of so much beauty. Oh, then ima-  
“ gine the horrors which invaded me,  
“ when, on enquiry, I found the sweet  
“ enslaver of my heart was the pro-  
“ perty of another. That the happy  
“ Signor Vicino, was in full possession  
“ of a heaven, which but to enjoy one  
“ moment, I would give up the rest of  
“ life. Yet had I the good fortune to  
“ appear agreeable in your eyes, and  
“ could you be prevailed on to change  
“ Italy for France, I have a fortune there  
“ to make you mistress of, equal to  
“ what you enjoy with Signor Vicino.  
“ Never, never, should you repent the  
“ change ; my constancy, my tender-  
“ ness, and zeal to serve you, should  
“ make you own that I, of all mankind,  
“ was least unworthy of your charms.  
“ Believe, most adorable Signiora, that  
“ I love you with the utmost honour,  
“ that I would sooner die in hopeless fi-  
“ lence, than solicit a grant of my suit,  
“ were I not assured you would, here-

"after, be convinced it was justice to  
 ' bless the

" Ever faithful

" Ever passionately devoted

" BEAUMART."

" P. S. Be so divinely good, to favour me with an answer by the same means, by which I give you this; but oh! consider before you write, that on your determination depends my fate, and kill not the man who loves you more than life".

So great was my infatuation, and so little my artifice, continu'd Signiora Vicino, that not the presence of my husband, nor the shame it was for me to be detected by him in an impatience to have lost such a letter, were sufficient to make me conceal the pleasure I took in reading it; my eyes dwelt on the enchanting syllables, and my soul greedily drank in the luscious poison they contained. Signor Vicino suffered me to remain in that posture for some minutes, examining my countenance all the time; and, too plainly perceiving my guilty wishes by  
 their

their outward symptoms, at last snatched from my hand the paper, and began to upbraid me in terms, which, I confess, had nothing of injustice in them, though severe enough. I had not the least word to alledge in my own vindication; but that this was the first time I had seen the letter, and was therefore ignorant of the contents. "But you are not", "said my husband, of the author of them; you have, it seems, exchanged intelligence by the eyes, and given encouragement for the pen. The uneasiness you were in at misting this declaration, the pleasure with which you perused it, are so many evidences against you, and proclaim you false in will, though for want of an opportunity, not yet so in fact." I was about to deny, as well as I could, this last accusation; but he would not suffer me to speak, and, having called the woman that attended me, strictly charged her not to suffer me to stir out of my chamber, nor be seen by any person whatever without his permission.

Oh heavens! what did I not endure in this confinement, debarred from all society, but my own perplexed medita-

tions, overwhelmed with Guilt and shame, and deprived of all hope of ever seeing my admired Beaumart more ! For I confess, that love for him had the better of all other considerations, and I did not so much repent, that I had given him encouragement to hope every thing from me, as regret my want of power to grant it. I passed some days in agonies, than which, I then thought, no greater could be felt; but, when I least expected it, came a relief, if that can be called so, which, giving me a present ease, plunged me into miseries ; to which compared, what I had yet sustained, were pleasures. Beaumart having found means to corrupt an under servant in the family, he got an opportunity to deliver me the letter, which as soon as I had opened, I found contained these words.

To the ever charming and most divine  
Signiora Vicino.

“ GREATLY should I want words  
“ to excuse the boldness of this epistle,  
“ did not the knowledge of what you  
“ suffer from an unworthy husband, give  
“ me hope you will judge the offer I now  
“ make,

“ make, as really it is, the effect of the  
“ most sincere and disinterested passion  
“ that ever was. For your own sake,  
“ dear lovely sufferer, abandon the cruel  
“ Vicino; let not the name of husband,  
“ or the reflection which is owing to the  
“ tie of Marriage, make you forget to  
“ do justice to yourself. Already you  
“ are confined, and I much fear what  
“ you now endure, will be the least of  
“ what is designed to be inflicted on you  
“ through jealous rage.”

“ I have this morning received a  
“ challenge from Signor Vicino, which  
“ I have answered with a promise of  
“ meeting. One of us, or both, per-  
“ haps, may fall the victim of your  
“ beauty: for my part, I regard not  
“ life, but as it affords me the means of  
“ being serviceable to you. Resolve  
“ therefore to quit Montefiascone, disap-  
“ point the cruel Vicino of the revenge  
“ he vows against us both, and be as  
“ happy as liberty, and an entire com-  
“ mand over my whole fortune can  
“ make you. By heaven! I never  
“ will take any advantage of the confi-  
“ dence you shall repose in me, beyond  
L 6 what

“ what you shall allow ; and if you never  
 “ consent to bless me with any other  
 “ name than that of friend, my soul is so  
 “ much yours, that even the platonic  
 “ system shall be my rule, if you com-  
 “ mand it should be so.

“ The servant, by whose means you re-  
 “ ceive this, has promised to provide  
 “ you with a ladder, by which you  
 “ may easily descend to the street,  
 “ when dead of night has closed the eyes  
 “ of all impertinent observers. There  
 “ will I wait to receive you, and bear  
 “ you to an Asylum, where you shall  
 “ have no discomposure, unless I am so  
 “ cursed, as to find my presence one.  
 “ Reject, I once more intreat you, all  
 “ scruples which may arise in your  
 “ mind against this advice, as enemies  
 “ to your repose, and 'tis possible your  
 “ very life ; and fear nothing from the  
 “ humble and submissive passion of,

“ Your Adorer,

“ And everlasting Slave,

“ BEAUMART.”

Oh,



Oh, pursued she, how can I live and confess, that with no other sollicitation than what these two letters contained, I yielded to fly my husband's house, abandoned all that can be dear to a woman of honour, and put myself entirely into the power of a man, whose principles I was an utter stranger to, whom I had seen but once, and to whom I had never spoke? Yet did I do all this. I returned him an answer, which 'tis needless to repeat, since it was only to let him know, I would comply with his request. And a little hint, I think there was, "That I depended on the assurances he gave me, that he would attempt nothing to my dishonour."

The fatal hour arrived in which I was to descend, alas, to rise no more! The ladder being set, I got down with ease, and was received by the expecting Beaumart, with all the demonstrations of tenderness and respect which the place would permit. Our horses being very good, we travelled hard that night, and by break of day reached ——— but not thinking ourselves far enough off, to avoid

avoid the pursuit that might be made after us, we stayed no longer than to refresh ourselves, and continued our journey to Sienna, which not being under the jurisdiction of Rome, promised us a safe retreat; there it was that the perfidious Beaumart had a full opportunity to prosecute his intentions, and there it was I became the prey of his dishonourable desires. Ten thousand, thousand vows he made, “ Never to regard me as any  
“ other than his wife, that I should  
“ henceforward be known for no other;  
“ and that when he arrived at France,  
“ his native country, he would make me  
“ pass to his father and kindred, for  
“ the daughter of an Italian Count,  
“ whose love for him had prevailed on  
“ her to consent to a secret marriage,  
“ for which I was to pretend I had been  
“ renounced by my parents.”

He invented circumstances, which would have made this story seem so plausible, and when he related them to me, feigned so well pleased with the stratagem, that I had not the least doubt but that he faithfully designed to put it in practice; a person with more penetration

tion than I can boast of, might, indeed, have been deceived by his behaviour all the time we tarried at Sienna : but I have since found, that when we quitted that place, he began to harbour thoughts of leaving me ; but judging it too populous for the scene of such despair, as he well knew would be my portion at the discovery of his baseness, he continued to feign his usual tenderness, till we came here ; and then all at once throwing off the mask, appeared the most consummate villain, sure, that ever fond believing woman was seduced by.

You, Signor, continued she, addressing herself to Clementina, heard with what a barbarous indignity he treated me ; but, perhaps, are ignorant that, requesting only a small sum of him, he refused me even that, forsook me without pity or remorse, and, doubtless, wishes my miseries may put an end to my life, which only can deprive me of the means to proclaim his uncommon ingratitude and sordid baseness to the world.

Thus ended she her sorrowful narration, which raised the anger of every one  
in

in the room against Beaumont: Clementina could not contain her reproaches, the good woman of the house uttered others not less severe, and the young girls wept bitterly, to think how little regard the other sex had on theirs, and how dangerous it was to be too kind.

After some discourse which this affair afforded theme for, the landlady, who happened to be a woman of great humanity, and more civilized than persons of her station ordinarily are, told the fair disconsolate, “ That since her inclinations were for a convent, she would endeavour, by the means of a relation she had who was a priest, to get her into one which was about two leagues off, as a lay sister. Signiora Vicino made a thousand retributions for so kind an offer, and let her know she would gladly accept it.

Clementina had half an inclination to have staid some time in this house, that she might fortify herself in that hatred she had vowed to bear all mankind; but the fears of not being able to overtake her ungrateful fugitive, prevented her; and,  
after

after having taken leave of the unhappy Vicino, she mounted her horse, and began to prosecute her journey.

She proceeded, without any interruption, till she came to a little village near Montelupe, or the mountain of Wolves, which being unsafe to pass over alone, she was obliged to tarry some days till the arrival of more company animated her courage. This delay agitated the natural impatience of her temper; but fortune sending several gentlemen, most of whom had fire-arms, she joined with them, and passed safely on, though not without several alarms from those dreadful animals, who rush out in swarms, and are not to be repelled without the use of guns.

Having escaped these dangers, the whole company halted for some time at the foot of the mountain, admiring the fine seat the duke of Florence has in that place; but, after having viewed it as much as they desired, went forward towards——; but had not proceeded in their journey above a hundred paces, before they overtook a melancholy procession :

sion : it was a funeral of a young lady, who (as some of the attendants told the gentleman) had been torn to pieces by a wolf as she was travelling over that fatal mountain, in company with a nobleman, to whom she was shortly to be married. He appeared himself as chief mourner, and, either with his long black robes, or the real anguish of his heart, seemed to become that character. Curiosity, or some other secret impulse, made Clementina ride as near as she could to see the face of him, who appeared so deeply afflicted. But how is it possible to represent that crowd of mingled passions, which all at once invaded her breast, when she saw in the person of this mourner, the man whom she pursued, her false perfidious Glencairn! Rage was, however, the most predominant of them all ; and wholly swayed by that, she drew her sword, and, without giving him any warning of the fate she was preparing for him, had stabbed him with it, had not one of the gentlemen been quick enough to prevent the blow. “ Prevent not”, cried she, “ an act of justice ; heaven is “ offended that such a monster lives, and “ sends his punishment by the person “ whom



"whom he most has wronged." The weapon was so near the breast of the Baron, that neither the solemnity of the procession, which demanded his eyes fixed on earth, nor his own inward grief, could hinder him from seeing it, which obliging him to turn his face, whence it came, greatly surprized him to see an unknown person armed against his life, and several others endeavouring in vain to mitigate his rage. The servants, who attended the funeral, however, by force, kept off all further interruption, and the funeral moved on. Never was madness equal to Clementina's, when she found herself thus frustrated, but resolving still on revenge, she followed to the church door, which being shut against her, to hinder any disorder her presence might occasion, she dismounted her horse, and waited there till the Baron should come out after the ceremony was over. The gentlemen, who had accompanied her over the mountain, believing she was either distracted, or had, indeed, received some extraordinary injury, would not quit her, both to prevent any mischief, and also to satisfy their curiosity with the particulars of an adventure which appeared so strange.

But

But the judge of the criminal causes, having been informed of the disturbance, sent proper officers to examine into the cause; and our little heroine was apprehended and carried to prison, till she should shew reason for her late behaviour; the distraction with which she yielded to their force, confirmed every body in their former conjecture that she was delirious; but when the Baron was told of it, his impatience to know who the person was that expressed so great a fury against him, was inexpressible. He went to the place where she was confined, and being admitted to the speech of her, had his curiosity gratified immediately, by his adversary's accosting him in this manner: "Coward, as well as villain," said Clementina, "unarmed, and altogether incapable to revenge my wrongs, thou darest to face me; but when the sword glittered in thy eyes, though urged by the arm of a weak woman, how didst thou tremble, and hide thyself among the holy herd, to escape my fury!—But, while I have life, never will I forego my vowed revenge. Where'er thou goest, I will pursue thee still, and teach thee what it is to injure a woman, such as Clementina."

"men-

“mentina.” It was needless for her to have repeated her name; the accent of her voice, and features, now he had leisure to examine her face, informed him who it was that spoke to him. Surprise, and, perhaps, a mixture of concern for her despair, and the occasion of it, kept him from interrupting her, till she had done speaking; but when he found she was silent, “Is it possible,” cried he, “that I indeed behold Clementina here? And that I behold her breathing revenge against the man she once so dearly prized, and who has never ceased to love her?” At these words, Clementina neither desiring, nor having the power to contain herself, tore her own hair, since wanting the means to tear the soul of him who had offended her, “Monster,” resumed she, “canst thou, dar’st thou pretend to truth, even in the detection of thy falsehood? Didst thou not abandon me, basely quit me in that distress my love had brought me into? Nay, what is worse, didst thou not leave me for my own servant? make her the partner of thy flight, and of thy heart? did I not see thee mourning that fate her infidelity deserved, O Heavens! what is it of  
“vile

“vile, treacherous, perfidious, and cruel  
 “that thou art not guilty of!”

“I acknowledge,” answered the Baron, with a submissive air, “that I am less  
 “innocent than I ought as to Ismenia—  
 “But, Clementina, in spite of the attraction of that young beauty, never  
 “would I have forsaken you, if not compelled to it, by the power of your  
 “exorable father——But Clementina,” pursued he, “observe how justly heaven  
 “retaliates ingratitude in kind: both of  
 “us, alas! were guilty to Miramene;  
 “and it was the sister of Miramene,  
 “whom in spite of my obligation to  
 “you, for some time I confess, a little  
 “entangled my heart—she also, criminal in a deeper kind, has expiated, I  
 “hope, her sin with her blood—it therefore remains now, that we, long since  
 “made one by vows, should be united in  
 “those bonds which the church ordains.”

The confusion of Clementina was so great at hearing tidings so unexpected, that, for some time, she could say nothing but, “O Heavens! Ismenia the sister of Miramene!” The Baron then proceeded to inform her of all that lady had told concerning her birth, and repeating his desires

fires of becoming her husband, her late fierce revenge grew gentle as humility itself. His penitence seemed a sufficient atonement for his fault; and when she considered her own infidelity to Miramene she agreed with him, "That it was the  
" hand of fate which made his love for  
" Ilmenia, the instrument of punishing  
" the wrong she had done her sister." Instead of reproaches, each now strove which should most exceed the other in endearments; but, giving a truce to them, in order to renew them hereafter with greater fervency, the Baron went to the judge, and giving him a brief recital of what had happened, and that the person who seemed so much resolved to take his life, was a woman, and a person to whom he had been solemnly contracted for some time, easily obtained her discharge; after which, she provided herself with habiliments more becoming her sex, and in a few days was married to her beloved Glencairn, with all the ceremonies requisite to make the tie indissoluble. Soon after which they embarked with all possible expedition for France; where, safely arriving, Clementina appeared vastly taken up with the gaiety of that place; but the Baron, who  
had

had married her merely out of a principle of honour and gratitude, and had nothing remaining of that ardency of affection for her, which is necessary to maintain constancy, began to give into gallantries, which were no way agreeable to the haughty, tenacious, and jealous disposition of his wife: she grew extremely discontented; and her reproaches having no other effect on him, than to make him less regardful of them, the more they were repeated, she fell into passions which rendered her the talk of all Paris. The lives of both became a perfect hell; the usual softnesses of the lover and the mistress were no more remembered; and the Baron exerting the authority of a husband, and Clementina the prerogative of a wife, they seemed to study nothing but how to exasperate each other; which neither being able to endure long, they parted beds first, and afterwards houses: the impatience of Clementina's temper, rendering it insupportable to her to meet with controul, threw her at length into a violent fever, which ended her unfortunate life, and left the Baron at liberty to pursue his inclinations wheresoever they should invite him.



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